AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHY, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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☞ *FOR PROSPECTUS, TERMS, &c.,*

SEE LAST PAGE.

SUGAR BEET.

We cannot too often or too confidently recommend the cultivation of this excellent field crop. It is a great yielder, hardy, easily raised, and is superior we think to any vegetable grown for milch cows and fattening cattle, especially when fed raw. We have grown large quantities for our own use the past seventeen years, and can therefore speak of it practically and experimentally. One of our neighbors—a lady farmer—informs us that she made thirty pounds of butter per week from six cows in December, fed upon hay and Sugar Beet. She adds, that the butter was fully equal to the best made in September and October on rich pasture.

The Sugar Beet does best in moderately rich loamy soil, but will grow where any other root does. The seed should be soaked two to four days in tepid water previous to planting, so as to insure its germination. If planted without first soaking, its shell is so hard it is a long time germinating. Hence the ill success of many who do not take this into consideration.

For field cultivation the rows should be three feet apart, so as to admit working easily with the cultivator among the rows. The plants, when finally thinned out, should not stand nearer to each other than six inches in the row. It can be pulled and secured in the fall the same as turnips.

The best variety is the White Silesian, though the French Yellow has been so much improved lately, we are informed it has become nearly as good as the latter. We have never found it to keep so well.

The beet requires about four pounds of seed per acre, and can be planted very rapidly in drills with a seed-sower, costing about eight dollars.

HOW SHALL SHORT-HORN CATTLE BE IMPROVED?

It is conceded by all whose judgment and experience are of any value, that Short-horn cattle as a whole, are superior to any other breed; and that in the loin, quarters, brisket, handling, early maturity, and quick feeding, they particularly excel; and for milking, when properly bred, taking the average quantity and quality into consideration, they are unsurpassed.

What then do Short-horn cattle lack to give them perfection?

We answer, that in comparison with the recently improved Devons, they are generally inferior in girth round the heart; they lack their full, meaty crops; and have nothing comparable to their fine shoulders, forming that beautiful symmetrical outline, gradually lessening and uniting them to the neck. In the set of the head the Short-horn is equal to the Devon, it is also rather finer in its anatomy; but in brilliancy and beauty of eye, the latter excels.—There are exceptions to this remark upon the eye, in some few tribes of Short-horns; among which are the true Duchess, as bred by the late Mr. Bates, and the Princess, as bred by Mr. Stephenson—no Devons ever excelled their eyes.

We now come to the question which heads this article, How shall Short-horn cattle be improved?

Simply by choosing those bulls that have all the good qualities in perfection in which the Short-horns now excel, and which are also superior in the eye, shoulders, and girth round the heart. These should be bred from in preference to all others. In this choice of bulls take the youngest, as the improvement is likely to be more marked and rapid from them. The reason for this is, that as bulls grow older their shoulders grow coarser, and as like produces like, calves by very aged bulls are not generally so fine as those got by younger ones. By steadily persevering in this course we may at length arrive at perfection in cattle. The improvement, however, will be slow; and we trust that those who commence it, will not be impatient in their attempts. It has taken nearly a half century to breed off the coarse dewlap, and put on the fine head and symmetrical shoulders of the Devon—his great girth round the heart we believe he originally possessed.

We shall be much obliged to the breeders of Short-horns, who have either males or females, which they consider superior in the fore rib, girth round the heart, full in the crops, and with fine shoulders, if they will inform us of the fact, either publicly or privately, as most agreeable to them. We have something to propose which we think will be found to their future advantage.

SHALL I USE SPECIAL FERTILIZERS?

A correspondent from Windham County, Ct., writes: "As you are particularly acquainted with our soils, will you give your opinion as to whether it will pay for me to use special fertilizers, such as guano, super-phosphate of lime, &c."

Had we space we would reprint several pages on the subject of manures. We place first among fertilizers good barn-yard manure which has been properly preserved from loss.

With regard to the special fertilizers, we still say as we always have said, do not go into these extensively at first. If we had an *exact*, reliable analysis of a soil we could judge *somewhat* of its defects, and prescribe what would *probably* remedy these defects; but after much practice in actual analysis, we do not by any means recommend every farmer to have his soil analyzed. We *know* that a large proportion of soil analysis are *worse* than *worthless*—for they lead astray—though we should highly value one upon which we *could* depend. We would not give a fig for a *thorough* analysis, which did not *cost* the operator from $15 to $50 in time and chemicals.

But a good result can be arrived at without aid from the chemist in *applying* manures, however much he may assist in *collecting* and *manufacturing* them. Every farmer should *experiment* for himself. As for guano it can hardly fail of producing good results, except in the *very driest* seasons, and then no manures have much effect, not even muck, the coolest and moistest of all; but these results are not always profitable ones. Experiments or trials upon every distant class of soils can only determine this matter of profit. Super-phosphate of lime, if *properly* and *honestly* manufactured, is a valuable fertilizer for a variety of crops on many soils. It has produced marked results on turnips and corn as well as on other crops.

Our advice is, *try* small quantities of both of these fertilizers, on a variety of soils and crops. Let the trials be made carefully and thoroughly, and be repeated for several seasons, wet, dry, and medium, to guard against the accidental results that may arise from unpropitious weather.

Let the cost of these experiments for the first season not exceed $25 to $100. The chances are that you will not suffer loss, if you do not profit by the operation; but do not throw any large sums upon adventures where you are not pretty sure of gain. Guano should not be purchased of irresponsible and unknown persons, but be procured as directly as possible from the Peruvian agent, or from established and reliable dealers.

Super-phosphate of lime make yourself, if you have the facilities. If not, get a few bags of the best you can. We recommend no man's make. There are doubtless several good articles in the market. We prefer that which is essentially bones and sulphuric acid. Ammonia added to this doubtless increases its value for most crops, but ammonia in the form of any salt, is too dear to be found in any article put up for profit. We doubt not that a mixture of super-phosphate and guano is often the best, but every man can more safely make the mixture himself, by shoveling them over together upon a floor, (the plan fol-

lowed by most if not all manufactures,) and he will then know how much of each is contained in his mixture.

A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS.

The following letter contains several important questions, a full answer to each of which would fill a whole number of our paper. As the inquiries relate to operations at various seasons of the year, we will print them here, and from time to time answer them by articles on these subjects. The questions will also serve as topics for our correspondents, who will confer a favor upon their fellow-workers, by giving plain statements of their own methods, and the peculiar advantages these methods seem to possess.

For the American Agriculturist.

Will you oblige a subscriber and constant reader of the *Agriculturist*, by replying to a few questions in relation to farming matters?

If in your power, please detail the minutia of the method of harvesting Indian corn usually practised at the north—viz: cutting up the corn, stalks, fodder and all, and putting it in shocks to cure and remain till gathered. The universal method here is topping and stripping the fodder, and gathering the corn from the standing stalks, which are subsequently cut up and fed to stock or burnt. The former method is considered superior, and I am anxious to learn its details, as I wish to adopt it.

Please state the usual mode of proceeding—the number of stalks to a shock—whether untied when gathering the corn, or gathered standing—may the shocks remain standing all winter after the corn is gathered—is this method more or less expeditious and troublesome than topping and stripping, and then gathering—what the best implement for cutting, and whatever else you may deem relevant.

Also, what is the best disposition to make of farm-yard manure raised during the spring and summer, intended for the next year's corn crop? Should it be hauled on the land and the heaps covered with soil; or spread and plowed in—or left uncovered? The soil which will be in corn next year is rather sandy and shallow, which I wish to stiffen and deepen, and I have some idea of plowing in the manure during the fall and early winter in four furrow ridges, plowing so deeply as to bring to the surface about an inch of the sub-soil, (clay) to be pulverized by frost during the winter; these ridges to be reversed in spring, and the land harrowed before planting. Would or would not this be advisable? I know sandy soils ought not to be plowed in autumn, but my object in this case is to expose the sub-soil turned up to the action of the atmosphere and frost. When should such land be sub-soiled? in fall or spring? What the size and price of the smallest sub-soil plow?

I have at command a quantity of rubbish (1000 to 2000 bushels) from a burnt house, which I wish to use as manure. What is the best mode of using it? I have intended to use part of it on corn land, broad-cast, after flushing and before harrowing; and to spread part during the summer on land intended for wheat next fall. Your advice, however, shall govern me in the disposition of it.

What is the best method of preparing carrot seed for drilling, so as to secure regularity of sowing and early germination?

Would saw-dust, or not, be a good divisor with guano, and a fixer of the ammonia?

THOS. R. JONES, JR.

Accomac, C. H., Va.

For the American Agriculturist.

CANADA THISTLE.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—In reply to your solicitation, I would say, the Canada Thistle is one of the most troublesome weeds with which the farmer has to contend. It spreads very rapidly from the seed, which makes it more difficult to exterminate, because the thorough-going farmer may perform the necessary labor to keep his own fields clear, while at the same time his next neighbor may be cultivating them with but little less care than his corn or wheat. With such a state of things, there can be but little hope of keeping entirely clear of them.

The Canada Thistle may be killed by summer fallowing, but ten chances to one if the next gale does not waft on its wings ten thousand of those little germs of life (the seeds) to take the place of so many hundred just destroyed. The most effectual remedy we have ever tried in this section, is to cut them in the month of July, when the stalk is hollow, and before the seeds are ripe enough to germinate. Cutting them thus, when the stalk is hollow, allows the stub to fill up with water, which kills it. Although you may not kill them all the first or second year, this course, persevered in, will use them up of a surety. It is beneficial to scatter a little salt over them after cutting, and after they are wilted turn cattle or sheep upon them. The animals will eat great quantities of them after they are thus salted and wilted.

S. A. COLLINS.

"Pleasant Ridge Farm," Sodus, Wayne Co., N. Y.

For the American Agriculturist.

SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

In your paper of the 23d of December last is an article with the above caption, in connection with which you invite further communications upon the same subject.

Though not a practical agriculturist, I have given considerable attention to horticulture, and I have used no fertilizer with the general effect of which I have been so well satisfied, as with the one now under consideration. The kind which I have used is manufactured exclusively of bones—finely ground—and sulphuric acid, and when prepared is a fine dry powder, and very convenient for use as a top-dressing, or otherwise.

I have tried this manure on all kinds of garden vegetables, on grass, and on plants and shrubbery generally, and with the very best results. On potatoes, Lima beans, and vines of every description, I have found it eminently beneficial. And it is a complete protection against the ravages of grubs, cut-worms, and the bugs which often destroy young vines. Since I have used it, I have had no trouble from any of these insects.

One hot forenoon last season, after a gentle rain during the previous night, I went into my garden and found that full one-half of my young cucumber plants had been cut down by the striped bugs. I immediately sprinkled a handful of the powdered phosphate over them, and from that time not another plant was injured; the vines grew luxuriantly, and continued to bear well till late in the season.

I intend to make further experiments with this article, and hope others will do the same.

HENRY D. SMITH.

Middletown, Ct., Feb. 27, 1854.

PERKINS wishes to know why some of our first females wear lamp mats instead of bonnets on their heads in the street? Referred to committee on milliners.

For the American Agriculturist.

TURNIPS FOR COWS.

NOTICING an article in your last paper, on feeding turnips to cows, and your call for information, I will endeavor to give you my own experience. The sixth experiment I am unable to try now, not having raised any turnips this year.

Two years ago having raised a large crop, I gave them freely to the cows, which they fattened upon, but I soon found the milk was getting very poor. It was of a blueish color, and a gallon of it would not raise as much cream as half the quantity ought to have done, and every day it seemed to get poorer. Nevertheless the cows grew very fat. Having inquired into the cause, I immediately stopped the turnips and fed them on cut hay, moistened and mixed with chop, and in a few days the milk was rich and of a beautiful color, and twice the quantity of butter was made from it. I was then satisfied as to the cause, and I fed the remainder of the turnips to the hogs, and never will again raise them for cows. But any dairyman having the convenience of a boiler, and who will boil them with a small quantity of meal, shorts, chops, or any thing of the kind, will insure fat cows, and an abundant quantity of milk or butter. Persons fattening beeves for market will find it a good plan to feed once a day with turnips, cut into small pieces. W****

Harford County, Md., March 6, 1854.

For the American Agriculturist.

HAVE WE A BLACK SPANISH FOWL AMONG US?

In common with the poultry-breeders and fanciers of the country, I have been quite surprised at the decision of a committee of the judges of the National Poultry Society, who have given it as their verdict, that at the recent exhibition of that Society held in this city, there was not a pure Black Spanish fowl to be found. If these judges have spoken correctly, I think that it is high time they gave the community the points of a true Black Spanish fowl. I, for one, have always believed that the birds bred by J. P. CHILDS, and shown at the late fair by the Messrs. HAINES, of Elizabethtown, possessed all of the characteristics necessary to the perfect species, but it seems that they don't come up to the *scratch*. Will Messrs. GILES & BURNHAM give the public a description of a *bona fide* Black Spanish fowl? The poultry-breeding community would like to know in what points the birds bred by Mr. CHILDS are deficient? I have no interest in them, and neither Mr. C., nor their present owners—the Messrs. HAINES—have any knowledge of this communication; but information on this subject will be gladly received by others as well as by a FANCIER.

New-York, March 6, 1854.

HORSES IN RUSSIA.

The immense number of horses in Russia have their origin in the immeasurable extent and fertility of the meadows of the Steppes. No country in the world, either Austria in Europe, or Paraguay in America, can compete with her. Russia alone is capable of remounting a numerous cavalry within the shortest time, and of keeping it effective during the most protracted war. In the last general war, it had 65 effective regiments of cavalry, besides a numerous artillery, and 170,000 mounted Cossacks, Baschirs, and Calmucks in the field; and in 1812-13 the Emperor Alexander ordered four reserve corps to be formed, for which in a short space of time 63,012 horses were bought. Besides these, a vast number were sold to the Austrian and Prussian cavalry out of the Government of Wolbynia. But notwithstanding this extraordinary draught of horses, the statistics of 1814, taken by Professor Heim, in 28 Governments show that there were 1339 Government and private studs, containing 345,109

horses of different ages. The Grand Duke, John the Third, laid the foundation of the present system of improving the breed of horses in Russia; but the present Emperor, by an ukase of the 11th of March, 1843, directed that stallions at proper stations should be distributed throughout the Empire, and that the heretofore Military studs should be changed into Imperial. The immediate consequence of this was, that, in 1844, 470 stallions were distributed, and 12,000 mares were covered. In 1845, the former number had increased to 900; and in 1848, the number was 1337, and the number of mares, since 1844, amounted to 165,000. By this means Russia has effected in a few years, what in other countries would have occupied centuries.

And now a word concerning the races—Haimans, a Government stallion, had four descendants, which won ten prizes, and netted their respective owners 6780 silver rubles. The stock of General Chasse numbered 14, which at the different races, won 41 prizes, netting for their respective owners, 31,152 silver rubles. The descendants of Birmingham, 31 in number, won 79 prizes, amounting to no less a sum than 38,428 silver rubles. These four stallions are thorough-bred English horses, and were bought by the Russian Government, in England, at different times, for 31,436 silver rubles.

The performances on the turf of the half-breds are no less remarkable. One horse, the descendant of Karatakos, won prizes to the amount of 2283 silver rubles. The trotting races are no less interesting; but circumstances did not allow the author to witness any.

Moscow seems to be the greatest mart for horses. At the establishment where the Government stallions are kept there is a sort of repository for horses, where they are sold by auction or private contract, similar to Tattersall's in London; with this exception, that all horses sent there for sale are examined by a veterinary surgeon previous to their admittance, and, if unsound, are rejected altogether. They charge for the keep, &c., 4½ per cent. on the produce of the sale.

There is no town in Russia where there are so many fine horses; not even St. Petersburg excepted. The merchants in Moscow are the greatest amateurs of horses. They spare no expense to procure the very best, and it is a sight that would gratify anybody, to go in the neighborhood of the exchange, about 12 o'clock to see their carriages; though some of them are no more than horse dealers. The trotters are held here in the highest esteem; the prices of them are very high, since you cannot purchase one of them under 1000 silver rubles. Ten colts and fillies were sold at 2 years old for 6000 silver rubles.—*London Veterinarian.*

FARM IMPLEMENTS IMPROVING.

The Patent Office records show, that the improvement and multiplication of agricultural implements is monopolizing a large share of the inventive genius in our country at the present time. Our columns usually contain the claims of patents relating to agricultural operations. The *Scientific American* gives the following summary:

Three patents were granted for horse-power potato digging machines; the models of two of these we have seen, but have not yet had the pleasure of seeing a large one in operation. Fifteen patents were granted for improvements in plows, and four for cultivators. No less than twenty-six were granted for seed-planters. This number is very large, considering that such machines are of recent origin, it shows the importance of this class of machines, and the dissatisfaction entertained with those already in use. The devices, patented, however, were mostly confined to the mode of distributing the seed—the novelties patented are stated to be very small, but that of B. D. Sanders, of Hollidays Cove, Virginia, for operating the shove-rod to work the valves by friction and rotary cam, is a very good one. Three patents were granted for horse rakes, and eight for threshers and separators; one of the latter consists in having an inclined rotary cylindrical straw-carrier, supported on friction rollers. This cylinder is full of holes, and as the straw is carried up, the grain falls down through the openings. Ten patents were granted for hullers and smut machines—one of them being for washing, scrubbing, and drying the grain. One patent for a weigher combined with a winnower. The weighing apparatus is secured in such a manner to the machine, that when the measure is filled up to the proper weight, the balance tips the weighed grain, which is thrown upon inclined ways, and immediately starts off on a railroad track to a grain depot. Four patents were granted for corn-shellers; in one the ears are allowed to accumulate, to act in the mass, as an elastic bed against the spiral shelling projections. Three patents were granted for straw-cutters, and nine for miscellaneous agricultural implements, one of them being for a metalic tube scythe snath.

CULTIVATION OF INDIAN CORN.

Raising corn has always been, and still continues to be, one of the most extensive operations of the agriculturists of this country. We perceive by examining into the circumstances of the case, that there is an astonishing amount of capital invested in this one branch of farming, and that the common profits are exceedingly small, compared with favored fields, in favorable localities. This is the subject which appears to be before the public, and its remedy requires the consideration of practical farmers.

There are several causes which directly or indirectly tend to produce this common effect, among which may be enumerated soil, tillage, seed, &c. Large crops are raised on all kinds of land in favorable seasons; yet the risk is so great, that experienced farmers seldom trust their capital in this lottery, but rather take land of a light, warm nature, that is easily tilled, and can be made productive by manuring, and is sure with care to produce a remunerating harvest. I consider a sand or gravelly loam most suitable and profitable, though most soils can, by a thorough draining and sub-soiling, be made to produce good crops of corn.

After many experiments I have adopted the following mode of operating. Take land that has been in sward two years; break with flat furrow as deep as convenient, late in autumn, before the severe frosts injure the vegetable matter; let it settle till planting season and then harrow until mellow. Be sure to harrow enough, for there is no fear of working the soil too much, and few think that one day's work in spring will save four at hoeing time. Mark both ways with a marker which will make four marks three and a half feet apart; be careful to go straight, so that you can do your hoeing with a cultivator. Plant in intersections, after putting one spoonful of gypsum in each hill. Plant good seed, and no more than you wish to grow, this will save a vast amount of bending while hoeing. At first hoeing, put a small handful of ashes on each hill; hoe two or three times, as circumstances require, and you are sure of a good growth. I find that the plaster increases the product fifty per cent., or more, which is a better dividend than all the railroads, banks, manufacturing or mining companies in the Union pay.

I harvest by cutting near the ground, and putting in small stocks before fully ripe, where it is left until cured. The stalks, if harvested in this manner, will half pay the expense of the crop; and are eagerly devoured by most kinds of stock. I find them to be the best feed ever used for cows. Butter made while feeding them is always of a beautiful color and an excellent flavor.

Under this treatment, I have always succeeded in obtaining a remunerating harvest, while some of my neighbors often do not get corn enough to pay expenses.—Frank Paslin, of Malone, N. Y., *in Albany Cultivator.*

CLAIMS OF AGRICULTURAL PATENTS

FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEB. 28, 1854.

Scythe Fastenings.—S. B. Batchelor, of Lowville, N. Y.: I claim the continuous rectangular slot or opening, in combination with the ring and screw, by which I am enabled to attach any common scythe to my snath, as set forth.

Seed Planters.—John S. Sydney & Joseph Young, of Wheatfield Township, Pa.: We claim the sliding section in the bottom plate, in combination with the tubes and revolving perforated plate, as described, for rendering the machine capable of hill or drill planting, at pleasure, and insuring a regularity of deposit, as set forth.

I also claim the aperture in the frame, in combination with the inclined form of the plate, for carrying off the surplus grains, and collecting them in the bucket, as specified.

Seed-Planters.—Thomas D. Henson and George Rohr, of Charleston, Va.: We claim the construction, use, and application of a revolving longitudinal shaft, having series of right and left or double obliquely set beaters, and cleaning spikes for the purpoes as specified.

Seed-Planters.—Lewis W. Colver, of Louisville, Kentucky: I claim the combination of the loosely hinged stocks, with their teeth, shoes, and a seeding apparatus, as described, and for the purpose of mellowing the soil, opening the furrows, dropping and covering the seed at one operation, as set forth.

Churns.—R. W. Davis, of Rodgersville, N. Y.: I claim the manner described, of dividing the end pieces, and hanging them eccentric to the axis of the dasher in combination with the arrangement of the blades, so that the dasher may be adjusted by the resistance of the cream in revolving through it, so as to present six centripetal cutting or agitating blades to the cream, and then after the butter is produced to be adjusted by reversing the motion of the dasher, and through the resistance of the butter, so as to present but two centrifugal gathering blades for gathering the butter, working it into rolls, and expelling the buttermilk therefrom, as described.

Harvesters.—Solyman Bell, of Marseilles, Ill.: I claim the pins in the sickle, or their equivalents in combination with the scores in the guards, or their equivilents, so constructed and operated as to remove the leaves and stalks, and prevent the guards from becoming clogged, so as to obstruct the motion of the sickle.

Cotton-Picker Cylinders.—James Pitts, of Lancaster, Mass.: I claim constructing the screen so that the periphery of the metal intervening between any two immediately adjacent orifices shall be of a length equal to or greater than that of the staple of cotton or other fibrous material to be picked, in order that the fibre shall not lap around the said periphery and become connected, attached, or tied by its ends, as stated.

I also claim the improvement of constructing the cylinder screen of a hollow perforated metal cylinder without arms or ribs, and with open hollow cylindric journals at its two ends, as stated, in order that the cotton may be drawn out of one journal by the suction draught and any obstruction removed by a person's hand and arm introduced throughout the other journal, as specified.

Additional Improvement.

Plows.—David Swartz, of Tonis Brook, Va.: Original Patent, dated June 22, 1852: I claim and desire to have added to my letters Patent of June 22, 1852, attaching the comb or rake to the rear end of the mold-board by a crooked cam lever or bar swivel in combination with the hand lever, whereby it can be conveniently raised and lowered by rotating it upon its axis of connection as set forth.

Horticultural Department.

FRUITS AND THEIR VARIETIES.

The season is now fast arriving for planting fruit trees. The object of every one in planting trees is, or should be, the production of the *best* fruits of their kind in the proper seasons. Now, there are several requirements that make up the quality of the "best" fruits. We will enumerate some, and the chief of them:

1st. Suitableness to the climate where they are to grow, and their ability to withstand the rigor and change of temperature. This quality may also be termed *hardiness*.

2d. Vigorous and healthful growth, with good constitution.

3d. Proper shape of head, and spread of branches in the tree in its *natural* habit.

4th. A proper distribution of the fruit throughout the branches in *single* bearing—not in clusters, like cherries. This open habit of bearing or distributing the fruit gives it a freer growth without interference with its fellows, holds it stronger on the twig, and renders it fairer and better grown than when huddled in clusters. Some apples and pears have this last habit in a very injurious degree.

5th. Constant bearing—or, as near constant (annual) bearing as possible, in order to give a regular supply of the same fruits every year.

6th. Good size, fairness of exterior, and excellence of flavor for the various edible purposes to which the fruit is to be devoted.

The affimative of these qualities makes up the merits which, as near as possible, every planter should provide in the fruits he plants.

Fruits otherwise may be sub-divided into two classes: for the table or dessert in their natural condition, and for cooking. For these two objects combined, few fruits are equally well adapted. The best table fruits are such as receive their full measure of excellence in flavor in their natural growth on the tree, while some of the best cooking varieties are stringent and unpalatable while raw, and only develop their full excellence under the cooking process. Every house-keeper experienced in fruits know this. Therefore, every one planting fruit trees for family use, should understand that he needs not only the best varieties for the table and dessert, but the best kitchen or cooking varieties. Without these last, his fruit garden must be imperfect. And how is he to get the knowledge to guide him in the matter?

We shall not answer this question directly, but make a remark or two by way of caution before starting.

It is the most natural thing in the world for one who is about to plant fruit trees, to send for a nursery catalogue of repute, and consult it, to ascertain what are the best kinds for him to select. He takes it up, finds a hundred or two kinds of apples and pears, or twice that number, half as many cherries, plums, and peaches, half a dozen quinces, currants, and raspberries, besides scores of gooseberries, and grapes, if he happen to want these latter. Looking at the different names among the several varieties of the fruits, and the remarks carried out opposite to them, our young planter finds them all "good," "excellent," "productive," "great-bearer," "delicious," "hardy," "best for market," &c., with adjectives piled up in the highest *excellentissimo* style, so bewildering to his imagination, that it is a miracle if he rises from their perusal without sighing that he has not land enough to plant the entire catalogue with such wonder-working fruits. The upshot of this examination is, that he is quite as much at fault as before he commenced his selection; and among the multitude of varieties, in all, that he has looked at, perhaps only a dozen or twenty of each, on examination will be found to be suitable to his wants, the quality of his soil, its climate, and position. Now, what is the poor man to do? He is buried in a labyrinth of apparent delicacies—made so by the zeal of the nurseryman, who will, of course, recommend his own wares—and trusting to his own choice, if not experienced, which not one in a hundred of our modern fruit-growers are, the chances are three or four to one that he chooses wrong.

There is hardly a locality embracing an area or stretch of country containing essentially the same soils, climate, latitude, and altitude in any of the old States, but what has one or more varieties of fruit of several kinds, particularly apples, more or less natural to that territory; probably originating therein, and flourishing in higher perfection of growth and flavor than any other variety in that particular place, or perhaps than any where else, although doing quite well in other localities and positions. We need instance only a few celebrated fruits to establish this fact fully. The Baldwin apple in Eastern Massachusetts; the Westfield Seek-no-further, between Hartford and Northampton in the Connecticut valley; the Rhode Island Greening, in Rhode Island and Connecticut; the Raymond, or Winter Pearmain, in the latter State; the Newtown Pippin on Western Long Island, Eastern New-Jersey, and up and down the Hudson River; the Esopus Spitzenburgh at and about Kingston, in Ulster county, N. Y.; the Philip Rick or Jonathan, in the same locality; and many other celebrated local fruits, that may be named in almost every one of our States where fruits have been long cultivated. Many of these fruits, particularly some of the above-named, flourish nearly as well as at the place of their origin, in some other localities, particularly in *natural* fruit soils—for there are such, preëminently so, in our country—while in other places equally favorable to their own local fruits, these we have mentioned, fail altogether. This important fact establishes the necessity of fully understanding what fruits will, and what will not flourish in the very spot where one is desirous to establish his plantation.

To one who does not know practically what he really wants, we advise him to consult some successful fruit-grower in his own immediate vicinity, and ascertain what good varieties flourish *surely*, and then to adopt them without further delay. Such should be the case for his main reliance. If he choose to experiment on others, untried as yet in his locality, he may adopt them sparingly, a specimen tree or two of each variety, but we would not advise a rash and indiscriminate planting of any thing at all doubtful. We have witnessed lamentable failures from the want of this very caution. A man who would plant an orchard of Newtown Pippins in Western New-York, would lose both his time and money, but with Baldwins or Spitzenburgs he might realize a fortune in time; while the pomologist on the Hudson River could not plant any thing half so profitable as the Newtown Pippin, or Spitzenburgh, and discard the Baldwin altogether. So, in view of what has been remarked, it may be taken as a general rule by every planter, that *a local fruit, if it be what he wants, to the extent required, should be adopted in preference to any others.* This rule applies to pears, cherries, plums, &c., as fully as to apples, and some varieties of each might be named; but presuming that our readers have brains of their own, we wish not to spin out a tedious detail of what each will understand for himself, acting on the rule we have premised.

There is another thing which will be well to recollect in these days of *new* fruits, as well as new every-things. Very many of the new fruits which are imported across the water, with great names and high recommendations, let them have been truly valuable abroad, are worthless here. Some of them are adapted only to the localities whence they spring; others have been so "highly bred"—to use a term applied to animal instead of vegetable life—that they have neither constitution nor growth, the want of either of which would be fatal as profitable trees. All such had better remain in the hands of the importers, or nurserymen until their merits have been thoroughly tried, not at all fearing but that those we now have will serve us bountifully till their period of probation shall have passed.

We have much more at a future time to say in relation to fruits, which we intend to make a prominent branch of our labors; but for the moment, will content our readers with a brief catalogue of reliable varieties in their several kinds for general cultivation, requesting them, meantime, if either of them have proved unsuccessful in their own locality, to discard it, and adopt in its place such approved *local* variety as will answer their purpose.

Apples.—*Early.*—Yellow Harvest, (sub-acid,) Large Yellow Bough, (sweet)—both of them sure, annual bearers, of moderate growth of wood, but hardy and prolific. The last fine for baking.

Early Autumn.—Golden Sweeting, Keswick Codlin, (sub-acid, for cooking,) constant bearers, and thrifty growers.

Later Autumn.—Cooper, Rambo, and Belmont, (the first for Southern and Central Ohio, the two last for Northern Ohio—all sub-acid,) Fall Pippin, Gravenstein, Jersey Sweet, Lyman's Pumpkin Sweet, (for baking, it will keep into winter also,) Porter—perhaps the very best pie-apple of the season, as it will cook both early and late, and Fameuse, Pomme De Neige, or Snow apple—for it goes by all three names—ripening late in the fall and keeping till January.

Winter.—Baldwin, Hubbardston Nonsuch, Newtown Pippin, (where it will grow,) Northern Spy, (in Western New-York,) Rhode Island Greening, Roxbury Russet, Poughkeepsie or English Russet, Swaar, (in Western New-York,) Westfield Seeknofurther, Esopus Spitzenburgh, Talman Sweeting, (for baking, and it is equal to a sweetmeat when baked,) and Vandervere, (which we think the very highest flavored and richest apple known, where it will grow fair and perfect.)

Pears.—*Early.*—Madelaine, (very early, but not a vigorous grower, or great bearer,) Blood-

good, (bear well every other year, and a good grower—we prefer this to the Madelaine, if we had but the one,) Bartlett, (succeeds the others, and the very best, large, early pear.) To these we will add Osband's Summer, a delicious and beautiful little pear of Western New-York, ripe just before the Bartlett.

Autumn. — Steven's Genesee, (succeeds the Bartlett,) a tree or two, with rich cultivation, of the Brown Beurre, (in perfection one of the richest and most delicious of pears,) White Doyenne, or Virgalieu, Gray Doyenne, or Gray Virgalieu, Louise Bonne de Jersey, and Seckle.

Winter.—Beurre D'Aremberg, Easter Beurre, (keeps till spring,) Glout Morceau, Winter Nelis, and St. Lawrence, (this last is a new Long Island pear, and has to be tested elsewhere.)

QUINCES.—The Orange is the best variety, and the only one we can recommend as really good, and always reliable.

APRICOTS.—Breda and Dubois' Golden, (the latter for its hardiness and productiveness.)

CHERRIES.—Baumann's May, (very early,) Black Heart, (very vigorous growth, and prolific bearer,) Black Tartarian, Elton, Yellow Spanish, or Bigarreau, Elkhorn, May Duke, Late Duke, and the Common red, Kentish, or Pie Cherry, (really the best cooking cherry in its season that we have.)

NECTARINES.—Downton and Early Violet. (These are such very delicate fruits as hardly to be worth cultivation in most places.)

PEACHES.—These are so fluctuating in quality in various localities, that the *surest* way is to look about you and see the *best* that your neighbors have, if good, and copy after them. If your locality be well fitted for them, we recommend the Red and Yellow Rareripes, Crawford's Early, and Late Melocotons, (coarse but large and showy,) George the Fourth, (very fine,) Royal Kensington, (delicious.)

PLUMS.—Bleeker's Gage, Frost Gage, (late, and fit for preserving only,) Green Gage, (the very best, but hard to propagate,) Lombard, (very prolific, and good market plums,) Smith's Orleans, Washington, and Yellow Gage. To these may be added some varieties of the common Blue, or Horse plum, which are very good for cooking.

CURRANTS.—The large Red, and White Dutch with good cultivation, are altogether the best, and answer all the requirements of the Currant tribe for edible or house-keeping use. The Black English Currant, however, makes a rich jelly, and is a grateful relish in cool drinks in sickness. We would always have it in the garden.

GOOSEBERRY.—These are hardly worth garden cultivation when we can cultivate the Rhubarb so freely for tarts; but if one is disposed to combat mildew, and its other enemies in this country, for the sake of so poor a fruit, we name the Swelling's Crown Bob, and White-Smith, as the best among the foreign, and Houghton's Seedling, an American variety.

RASPBERRIES.—The Red and Yellow Antwerps are the best of the finer kinds. Knevet's Giant is said to be somewhat hardier.

STRAWBERRIES.—The variety of these is getting to be "legion." Almost every locality has its particular favorite. We would never be without the early Scarlet. It is always reliable, and the earliest of the season. To this we will add Hovey's Seedling, Burr's New-pine, and Rival Hudson. But we frankly admit, although these are our favorites, there may be others quite as good—possibly better for some places.

The above-named fruits embrace almost every thing in common cultivation, except the grape; and where the climate will admit of their ripening in out-door culture, the Isabella and Catawba are altogether the best we have known. If the new Concord grape, noticed in our paper a few weeks since, succeeds, as we hope it will, it will prove a desideratum for northern cultivation, for at present we honestly confess, compared with the Isabella and Catawba, we do not know of a grape worth cultivating out of doors by their side.

After all we have now written, we earnestly advise those who are about to plant fruit trees, or having already planted, and without them, to provide themselves at once with the fruit treatises of either DOWNING, THOMAS, or BARRY—or all of them, and study their pages closely. The subject is too diffuse in its various details to be fully treated in a single article in any one periodical whatever.

Mr. ELLIOTT has a new work now passing through Mr. SAXTON's press, at 152 Fulton street, New-York. He informs us it will treat more fully on new varieties and the western fruits, than either of the above publications. Mr. ELLIOTT has been long a resident of Cleveland, Ohio, and has assiduously devoted several years to the study and practical cultivation of fruits.

THE PRESERVATION OF FRUITS.

THE unusual interest that is every where apparent at the present time on the subject of the preservation of fruit, is very appropriate, and suggests a topic for a brief practical article, especially as we have recently received several letters of inquiry on this subject from our subscribers.

Millions of dollars are annually lost to our country, and there is a deprivation of one of our choicest luxuries to the million, by the carelessness or ignorance that so generally prevails in regard to it. A little attention and knowledge of the simplest general principles would prolong the fruit-enjoying season to nearly double the present time. The following rules are alike applicable to the apple, pear, grapes, &c.:

Gather the fruit *just* before it becomes fully ripe, between the hours of 10 A. M. and 5 P. M., on a clear dry day, and remove all the unripe, bruised, and imperfect fruit. Place the fruit on the floor of a cool chamber from six to twelve inches deep, where it should remain to sweat for a week or ten days. If more convenient to hasten the sweating process, place a thin layer of clean straw over the fruit for a day or two. Then place the fruit in dry barrels or boxes which close tightly, and store in the coldest dry place that can be found free from frost. We have often preserved apples, pears, and grapes very well in layers of paper, cotton, &c.; but we are not sure they will not keep better, and their flavor be the better preserved without any thing around them. Cotton absorbs moisture and impairs the flavor.

A strict adherence to the above will doubtless largely contribute to the preservation of fruit and the excellence of its flavor.

The more perfect French method of preserving tender fruits for many months, consists in placing them in a house prepared for the purpose, by building a small room on a dry, well-drained soil. The walls are of clay or sun-burned brick, twelve inches in thickness, on the outside of which, leaving one foot space, another wall of the same description is built. The roof is of similar make, filled in with tan-bark, and the whole covered with a board roof for protection, after leaving a slight ventilation in the roof and small windows. The temperature of such a house, it is said, will remain nearly the same during all the variations of climate the year round, and preserve the most tender pears, peaches, and even the strawberry in the perfection of its flavor.

Another mode of preserving fruits, which is attracting much attention at the present time, is that of putting them in glass jars or cans, hermetically sealed, after the expulsion of air, by immersing them in boiling water for that purpose. We have attained the same object by extracting the air with a force pump.

Cherries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, and currants may be preserved easily and in great perfection in this manner; but it is quite difficult to preserve the delicate flavor of the peach; and quite impossible, as far as our experiment and observation go, to preserve the strawberry in this way. This process requires great care and skill, and even then it sometimes fails in part to succeed.

The first plan we have described is the simplest, and for general use doubtless the best. In this way the Rhode Island Greening and Spitzenburgh can be retained in all their perfection until July; and the Northern Spy, Newtown Pippin, and Golden Russet, until September or later. If one-half of the winter fruit put up in the usual careless manner becomes worthless in flavor or rotten by the first of April, and the above process will remedy the evil, surely, it is well worthy of the little care and attention required.

CULTIVATION OF PEARS.

MR. HOVEY has a long article on the cultivation of pears in his Magazine for March, in which the subject is discussed more particularly in reference to the difference in climate existing between America and Europe. Where the pear is most grown in the latter country, and whence we have derived our principal stocks, the climate is more equable and more humid than in the United States. Mr. HOVEY proposes obviating this difference of climate by "deep and thorough trenching of the soil, which will supply an abundance of moisture, and counteract these atmospheric influences; and whoever wishes to produce the larger and finer foreign pears must take this course."

We will add that *deep trenching* is highly beneficial to all other fruits, whether grown on trees, shrubs, or vines; and this should invariably be done before planting, unless the land has just been cleared of a forest, or is particularly rocky.

THE CRANBERRY.

THE interest in this valuable fruit has become so general, and the desire for information, now scattered and inaccessible to the majority of inquirers is so great, that particular attention has been given to the collection of all that can be

useful and valuable in regard to its natural history and cultivation. With this view, nearly a hundred acres of cultivated cranberries have been visited in different sections of the State.

The cranberry is too well known in New-England to need description; but, it is so short a time since attention has been called to its cultivation, that many questions connected with it may be regarded as still unsettled.

Its Natural History.—There are two prominent and well known species of this fruit; the small or European, (*Oxycoccus palustris,*) and the common American cranberry, (*Oxycoccus macrocarpus.*) This plant was formerly classed as one of the whortleberry genus, (*Vaccinieæ,*) but is now considered by many scientific men, as forming a group of four or five species, of which, the two mentioned above, are most commonly known. *

The roots of the small cranberry are creeping, with many stems, which are very slender, wiry and trailing, with many leafy branches. Its leaves are alternate, small perennial, somewhat oval, rolled back at the edges, erect on small stalks. They are glaucuous, or of a grayish color underneath. The flowers are small drooping, and very beautiful; each consisting of four distinct petals rolled back at the base, of a deep flesh color, on simple red stalks, which have two or more very small, imperfectly developed leaves or bracts. The berries of this species are small, being about as large as an ordinary sized pea. In the early part of their growth, they are spotted, very much like a sparrow's egg, the spots being a little smaller, but, finally, in favorable situations, turn to a deep red. They have an acid taste, and are much used for tarts and jellies. It delights in marshy bogs covered with moss. It grows in great abundance in Russia, Sweden, Germany, and to some extent in Scotland and the north of England. It is also found in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and that vicinity, where it bears very abundantly, and along the St. John's River, to a great distance from its mouth. It is met with in some parts of Massachusetts also. I observed it in the swamps of Provincetown, where it is called the "spice cranberry." It is imported into England from Sweden and the north of Europe, in large quantities, and though with us it would be considered as far inferior to our common cranberry, it is more esteemed by many.

[*Note.—There is a plant called the High-bush, or High Cranberry, (*Viburnum opulus,*) indigenous to North America, found on uplands in Maine, and along the St. John's River, and in some parts of Massachusetts. It is a beautiful shrub, sometimes ten or twelve feet high, having a white blossom, and a fruit somewhat smaller than the common cranberry, perfectly red, and of an acid taste, well adapted for tarts, pies, &c., for which it is often used. The fruit differs from the common cranberry, in having a small oblong stone instead of seeds. It is easily propagated by seeds, layers, or cuttings, and is often found as a garden shrub, flourishing in every variety of soil, sands and clays, wet and dry. Its berries grow in clusters and are persistent through the winter.

The plant, called in Maine, the "Mountain Cranberry," (*Vaccinium Vitis Idæa,*) has leaves shaped like those of our common cranberry, and bears an acid fruit used for the same purposes as our cranberry. It is very rare in this State, and where known, is called the "Cow Berry."

There is still another plant, (*Arbutus, Uva-ursi*—L.) found in abundance on Cape Cod, and there called the "Hog Cranberry." This is the common Bearberry. It is not properly a variety of the cranberry, but belongs to a different genus. Its leaves, are in shape, much like those of the cranberry, and it is trailing like that plant. Its fruit is red, but smaller than the cranberry, and is used for medicinal purposes.

All these plants have come under my personal observation and study.]

In Sweden, it was formerly common to boil silver plate in the acid juice of this berry, that it might eat off the minute particles of copper alloy.

The common American cranberry is a native of North America. It grows and flourishes in mossy swamps and bogs, as well as on sandy soils, from high northern latitudes, to North Carolina on the south, and to Minnesota on the west, where it produces very abundantly every other year, and is not excelled in size or flavor by cranberries in any part of the country. It is bought in large quantities of the Indians.

The stem of this species is larger than that of the small cranberry just described, and is commonly from a foot, to four or five feet in length. It is sometimes much longer than that. I have seen it from twelve to fifteen feet in length, throwing up many rising branches, sometimes to the height of eight or ten inches. The leaves are about one-half an inch long and nearly one-fourth of an inch broad, the second year, when full grown. On the new spring branches, which bear the flowers and berries, they are crowded towards the top. They are of an oblong, oval shape, the margin curved back, divided in the middle above and beneath by the costa, from which veins run to the margin. The flowers are frequently in pairs, very elegant, held towards the end of the new spring branches by erect, reddish stalks, much bent near the ends, giving them, together with the calix and flower-bud, before expanding, the appearance of a crane's neck, head and bill, whence it derives its name, craneberry or cranberry. The flowers continue to grow until immature berries are produced, on the stem in July, and in some instances, even into August. The berries are of a yellowish green before ripening, and when ripe, of a bright scarlet or carmine color, and in some varieties, nearly black, or light and speckled with deep red, varying in shape, from round to oval oblong, about one-half of an inch in diameter, of an agreeable acid taste, and often clinging to the vines during the whole winter. If gathered before ripe, they have not that delicious acid taste which they have at their maturity, and are, therefore, far less valuable than when left to ripen on the vines.

The cranberry grows naturally in watery bogs and morasses, and sometimes on high mountains. I have seen it growing luxuriantly and producing in abundance on marshes exposed to, and covered by high tides, on coarse sand, perfectly white and entirely destitute of organic matter of any kind, though accessible to moisture; on pure peat, on peat covered with sand, on dry, loamy and gravelly upland, and on the richest garden mould thoroughly tilled.

The American cranberry is exported very largely to Europe, though, as has been stated, it is not universally considered as equal to the Russian. It was found and used by the early settlers of Massachusetts, though not introduced into the Royal Botanic Garden, at Kew, till 1772, and comparatively little valued here, till within the last half century.

Analysis.—A valuable analysis of this fruit has recently been made, at my request, by Professor E. N. Horsford, of Cambridge. From this analysis it appears that the

Percentage of water expelled at 212° F., is	88.78
Percentage of ash,.....	17
Woody fibre, tissues, organic acids and other organic matter not decomposed at 212° F.,.....	11.05
	100.00
Percentage of potash in the ash,.....	42.67
" " soda,.....	1.77

This explains why this fruit flourishes so well on the sea-shore, where it derives its alkalies; the amount of potash, though small, may be derived from the sea.

From this analysis, it will be seen that only .17 per cent., or less than two-tenths of one per cent. of the cranberry is found in the ash, as inorganic matter, derived from the soil, all the rest being derived from the atmosphere and from water. The results of experience are, therefore, strikingly corroborated by the deductions of science, that the cranberry will grow where nothing else will. It explains, too, how it is that this fruit seems to require nothing for its perfect development, but air and water, as will appear more distinctly hereafter.

Modes of Cultivation.—The cranberry may be propagated from the seed, or from cuttings, or by transplanting. The last method is most frequently adopted. The first crop obtained by planting the seed, will ordinarily be a year or two later, than that produced by wild plants transplanted. It is, therefore, found to be more profitable to transplant, except in one or two sections of the State, where the interest in transplanting has been so great, that ten dollars a square rod is not an uncommon price for plants, where the ground is thickly covered. When it is desired to propagate by slips or cuttings, the usual practice is to gather a large quantity of vines and run them through a common hay-cutter, till they are reduced to the length desired, an inch or so, when they may be sown broad-cast and harrowed in, though it is considered best, on some accounts, to sow in drills and cover properly. These slips very soon take root, starting from the base of the leaves, and at the same time shooting up many rising branches. If sown broad-cast and harrowed, they should not be overflowed till the slips have taken root, as otherwise, many, remaining uncovered, will be floated off.

In the case of cranberries growing wild, it is a common and well-known practice to flow or cover them with water during the winter and early spring. This is very desirable, if the situation is such as to allow it, though it is not generally considered as essential by those who have been most successful. It is often useful, where there are facilities for flowing, to let the water remain a few inches deep till the spring is well advanced, (some think, till the first of May, or even later,) to retard the blossoming till there is no danger from frosts. Facilities for flowing are desirable in cultivation of cranberries, also, and if the plantation could be so arranged as to flow very quickly, it might be of essential service, occasionally, during the spring or autumn.

As the cranberry, in its natural state, is more frequently found growing in a low wet swamp or marsh, that kind of land is generally selected for its cultivation.—*Report of Sec. of Massachusetts Board of Agriculture.*

(To be continued.)

LAKE ERIE GRAPES.

Charles Carpenter, of Kelley's Island, in Lake Erie, off Sandusky Bay, gives an account of some very successful experiments in grape culture on that island. He says:

The soil of Kelley's Island consists of a few inches of vegetable mould, resting on a sub-soil of hard clay, in which is mixed some pebbles and sand, mostly of lime-stone, and occasionally crystals of sulphuret of iron are found.

When the whole are mixed by plowing, they make a pretty stiff soil, well supplied with lime, sulphur, and iron, and yield heavy crops of wheat or corn. Most of the island is nearly level, or having a gentle slope, just sufficient to carry off the surface water.

Where grape vines are planted, the ground is sub-soiled eighteen inches deep, and under-drained. The first planting of grapes was in 1842 or '43, when a few Isabellas were planted in gardens. The Catawba was introduced two or three years later. The unusual growth of the vine, and superior quality of fruit, attracted the attention of persons acquainted with their culture, and generally elicited expressions of surprise; and induced several persons to engage in the culture for the sale of fruit and wine-making.

In the spring of 1851, the writer set part of a field where corn or wheat had been raised for five successive years. The ground sub-soiled

and under-dained. Layers and cuttings, each one year old were used. In February, 1852, the growth was cut down to two and four inches from the ground.

From one to four shoots were allowed to to grow, according to the strength of the plant. The side shoots were picked off twice in the early part of the season, in all from three to five feet from the root, after which all were allowed to grow. In November some of the Isabellas had two shoots each eighteen feet long; others four shoots each fourteen feet long.

Some of the Catawba have two, others four shoots ten feet long each, of wood well ripened nearly to the ends. No manure of any kind has ever been put on this field, except some leached ashes on one corner, and that does not appear to have increased the growth at all.

The yield of fruit has been uniformly heavy until the vines were injured by the severe winter of 1851–'52, and again by long-continued and heavy rains while in blossom.

Mildew is sometimes seen on the Isabella, but never yet on the Catawba. The rot I have never seen but once.

The training here is entirely on trellis, some made of wood, and some of wire. That of wire is made thus: Set posts twenty-five feet apart, bore half-inch holes at suitable distances; if for three wires, say twenty, forty, and sixty inches from the ground; or if for four wires, at eighteen, thirty-two, forty-six, and sixty do. Then draw in annealed wire, number nine, the whole length of the row of posts, letting the end come through the last post about four inches, drive in a half-inch pin of hard wood from the outside, and give the end of the wire one turn round the pin close to the post. Then from the other end draw the wire tight and fasten as before. The end posts should be set firm, with a brace from the inside.

Number nine annealed wire is seven cents per pound, and weighs just one pound per lineal rod. Wire trellis is put up very rapidly, and costs less than half that of wood.

It is better, also, for the clusters can hang singly, and have full benefit of the air.

A little wine has been made for the last three years—has been pronounced by good judges to be of the first quality.

Grapes will keep until May or June without decaying. I once put a bushel in a basket, covered with a sheet of paper, and set the basket in the cellar, on a barrel of apples. In March they were sound and fresh, and in better condition than the russet apples.

The influence of the Lake has a marked effect on our vegetation, retarding it in the spring, and preventing late frosts. In sixty years that peaches have been growing here, they have never been injured by a spring frost.

In the fall the water retains the warmth acquired during the summer, sufficient to extend our season considerably beyond that of the main land at a distance from the lake. We never have a frost before the 20th of October, and often not until much later. The first this season to do injury, was November 13th, when the thermometer fell to twenty-eight degrees, until which time peppers, tomatoes, and the like, were untouched. A trifle of white frost had been observed before in some localities, but not sufficient to do injury.

The severe drouths of summer are considerably mitigated by the moisture arising from the lake, while at the same time, fogs, so destructive to the grape leaves, are of rare occurrence in summer or autumn.—*Tribune.*

GRAPES.

The improvement of the grape, with a view of obtaining varieties adapted to our climate, has been of late, as has already been stated, sedulously pursued by the raising of seedlings, and new varieties have been, and will probably continue to be, annually exhibited. In endeavors for this object Mr. A. W. Stetson has distinguished himself, and during the past season he exhibited several new seedling varieties among others the following:

Seedling No. 1, from the Grizzly Frontignan, of a purple color; both bunches and berries of good size and fine flavor. This grape was highly approved of by good judges, and will, Mr. Stetson thinks, prove to be hardy.

Seedling No. 2 is from the Grizzly Frontignan, has berries nearly white, with a little tinge of blush.

Seedling No. 3, also from Grizzly Frontignan; resembles No. 2, but has larger berries.

Seedling No. 4 is from the Black Hamburg; three years only from the seed.

Seedling No. 5, a seedling from the Sweetwater; exactly like the common Sweetwater, in every thing but color, which was a dark blue.

In addition to the foregoing, Mr. Stetson fruited the past year many other seedling grapes. Mr. James Blood, of Newburyport, has two seedling grapes, which he states have been in bearing eight years, and never failed to produce a crop. The fruit was ripe this year in the last week of August. One of these was a large purple grape, resembling the Isabella; the other in color, more approximating to the Catawba. They seemed to be both good grapes, and from the circumstance of ripening so early in the season, in addition to their other qualities, may prove an aquisition.—*Hovey's Magazine.*

The Strawberry.—The sexual character of the strawberry is the subject of a very interesting report just made to the Cincinnati Horticultural Society by a committee, who have come to the following conclusions:

1st. That all strawberries, in their natural state, have some blossoms, perfect in what are termed male and female organs, while some are decidedly pistillate, and others staminate.

2d. That when they are in some degree perfect in both organs, the fruit will be small and indifferent, except, perhaps, in the case of "Longworth's Prolific."

3d. That if the staminate plants prevail, there will be but little fruit realized.

4th. That if they be all pistillate there will be a like result, and that of an inferior quality.

5th. That to insure a full crop, whatever be the theory, it is absolutely necessary that the pistillate plants predominate; indeed, that the staminate plants be very sparsely distributed.

For the American Agriculturist.

A NEW REMEDY FOR CURCULIO.

I have in my yard two plum trees, which have blossomed well every spring for more than ten years past, and have been, literally, loaded with young fruit; but not one solitary plum escaped the ravages of the curculio long enough to mature, until last summer when one of the trees produced a fair crop. These trees stand about two rods asunder; and their circumstances, as to soil, exposure, and situation in reference to other trees, are as nearly alike as may be. During the past ten years I have tried every thing—except "*catching the crittur*"—which I have seen recommended in agricultural works for repelling the curculio, but found nothing effectual until last season. I yarded my pigs in a small space about them for several weeks, to no good purpose. They were dusted with lime and ashes every morning for a long time without success. Holes bored into the body of the tree, and filled with sulphur, and stopped with a plug, had no perceptible influence. Many other remedies proved quite as ineffectual.

But last spring, early in May, in grading my yard around one of these trees, to the depth of ten to twelve inches, coarse unfriable earth from the highway side was drawn in with a scraper, and the team in traveling over it, packed it down very firmly. I had resolved, that if I found no fruit this year, I would cut them down. The result was, that the tree which had dirt hauled about it yielded a fair crop of ripe fruit; while from the other one, although it was well filled with young fruit, every plum dropped before they were half grown. I observed when the curculio was committing depredations, and the fruit was dropping daily, that from the tree, around which dirt had been drawn, but very few plums fell to the ground in consequence of having been stung.

It would appear, from this fact, that the curculio itinerates but little; that it hibernates in the soil, under the branches of the trees, on which it has flourished the preceding summer; and that paving, or burying it in the soil, a few inches deeper than it is accustomed to burrow, delays its resurrection, until the young fruit has grown so as not to be injured by these little marauders.

I design to make some experiments this season in repelling the curculio; and if I am successful, I will furnish you with details respecting them, and the result. S. Edwards Todd.

Lake Ridge, Tomps. Co., N. Y.

Similar experiments to the above have come under our own observation, but no covering of the surface of the ground has yet proved entirely effectual. Mr. Manice, of Long Island, paved the ground under his plum trees, but did not entirely succeed in keeping out the depredators till he entirely surrounded them with a high board fence. Against this the curculios would strike in great numbers while attempting to reach the trees.

THE BEST CELERY.

The few remarks I have to make on this subject, therefore, are not made with a view to describe any particular mode of culture, but rather to direct attention to particular varieties now in cultivation. There are at the present time a great many kinds of Celery grown, and all have their patrons, or some of them would soon become extinct; and if each cultivator, after a careful trial of the comparative merits of each variety, has retained the best and most useful for his purposes, he is quite right in doing so, and may assist others by giving the public the benefit of his experience; which I shall now proceed to do, trusting that others in different parts of the country may be induced to do the same.

First, then, it is an indispensable quality in celery that it should be solid; second, that it should be sweet and crisp; and third, that it should remain long in perfection. The only varieties which I have found to possess these qualities any thing like constant is one known in this neighborhood under the name of "Dwarf, late White Celery." Unfortunately it has never been made known by the trade; at least, if it has, it has been so but very partially. It is of a dwarf, robust, compact habit, and can be had good ten months out of the twelve; the space between the rows may also be eighteen inches less than that for any other variety. I should advise all who have not grown it to give it a trial; and I am certain of its giving them satisfaction. It can only be had true from a few establishments at present. Those who have a stock of it should, therefore, make it known; for of all others it is certainly the Celery best calculated to meet the extensive demand of a gentleman's establishment, and to give entire satisfaction as regards flavor. A Bousie.

Stoke Park, near Slough.

[We can confirm Mr. Bousie's opinion from our own experience. We find that those who have once grown it care but little for any other variety. It is most desirable that it should have some distinctive name; and we suggest that in future it be called "Incomparable." The raiser of this very useful variety is unknown.]—*Florist and Fruitist.*

Poverty wants some, luxury many, and avarice all things

American Agriculturist.

New-York, Wednesday, March 15, 1854.

OUR PAPER.

We are not fond of boasting, but we do feel a high degree of satisfaction—not to say pride—in presenting to our numerous readers such a paper as we now send out. We will not enumerate them, but ask our readers to look over and look through the long list of articles in this number, most of which it will be noticed are original; and we hope to make each future number if possible an improvement upon its predecessor.

We may be allowed to say in this connection, that whatever appears in the *Agriculturist* as editorial, or with editorial sanction, we shall honestly endeavor to make strictly reliable. We rather pride ourselves upon exceling in this particular, from the fact that those who speak through our editorial columns, are men deeply versed in both the *principles* and *practice* of agriculture.

We are happy to announce that in addition to our former force, we have enlisted in the editorial corps, the services of Mr. Lewis F. Allen, so long eminent in the western part of this State as a Farmer, Stock-Breeder, and Fruit-Grower. Mr. Allen occupies a farm of about one thousand acres, near Buffalo, and has large herds of improved cattle, fine flocks of sheep, and over forty acres of orcharding. With what ability he instructs others with the pen, is shown by several articles on orchards and other departments of the farm, in the last volume, as well as by the article on "Fruits and their Varieties" in the present number.

We also take great pleasure in saying that Mr. R. G. Pardee—whose valuable contributions to the various Agricultural and Horticultural journals for several years past, have made him widely and favorably known—is now enrolled with the editors of this journal. He will attend more particularly to the Horticultural Department, and hereafter give what he has to say on this and kindred subjects, to the *Agriculturist*.

Several other gentlemen, who are thoroughly practical farmers, as well as able writers, have promised us their constant aid in our effort to make the *Agriculturist* preëminently the leading, as well as most instructive and reliable work of its kind in the country.

With these appliances and efforts on our part, may we not again request each of our present readers to make a personal effort to enlarge our circulation; not only that an increased income may enable the publishers to add to our present facilities, but also to extend to as wide a circle as possible, the advantages which must result to those who weekly read a large and reliable agricultural journal.

Who will respond to this request, by sending one, two or more new subscribers, among their immediate friends and acquaintances?

We take the liberty of sending this number, as a specimen, to some intelligent agriculturists, who are not subscribers, (and to the very few who have been subscribers but who failed to renew when their time expired.) We trust that all who are disposed to forward our enterprise, and at the same time benefit themselves, will promptly remit the small sum required for a year or for six months' subscription. There are in each year two complete volumes with an index, and we are quite willing to receive *new* subscribers for six months, that they may try us.

We renew the request made in a former number, viz., that our subscribers will send us the address of their friends and acquaintances, to whom they may desire to send a copy of the paper, and specimens will be freely mailed to them from the office without expense.

To our Lady Readers.—We are so crowded with original matter on other subjects this week, that we have neglected the *Household Department*, though some good suggestions will be found in the *Reminiscenses of a Farmer's Daughter*. We design to devote considerable space each week, to giving information on matters relating to the *in-door* work of the farm. We have a basket full of Recipes which we might publish, but we are unwilling to insert any thing of this kind, which we do not know to be useful, or which is not directly vouched for by some person speaking from experience. We respectfully request the ladies to communicate any information in regard to household matters, which may be useful to others. Their names need not appear in the paper if they desire them not to be there, though it adds interest and value to any communication to have it signed by the name of the writer. Every valuable hint thrown out through our columns, is read by, and benefits thousands.

We just now call to mind the "Washing Recipe No 2," on page 279 of last volume, in which the use of borax is recommended. Indirectly, we have heard of it being tried, and highly approved. Will some of those who have tried it faithfully, communicate the results directly to us. We are just as anxious to learn the fact that an experiment has failed, as that it has succeeded, for such information is equally important to others.

Acknowledgments.—We have just received, through the politeness of Mr. D. A. Bulkeley, a copy of the address of Justus Towers, Esq., and the reports of committees, &c., at the Forty-third Anniversary of the Berkshire County (Mass.) Agricultural Society.

We have also received a copy of the addresses at the annual meeting of the New-York State Agricultural Society, by the retiring President, Lewis G. Morris, Esq., and by the President elect, Wm. Kelley, Esq.

Error in Credit.—In No. 25, Vol. xi., we inserted a short extract on Poultry Raising, which we found in an exchange *uncredited*. This article first appeared in the *Farm Journal*, of Pa., and should be credited to that paper.

Harpers' Magazine.—We have received the March number of this elegant magazine, in which the Messrs. Harpers make another "apology" on account of its appearance. We have no doubt that the new type, embellishments, &c., which they have been preparing for it since their great loss by fire last December, will surpass any thing yet got up in the magazine line; but as for an "apology," why the public ought to *apologize* to them for the generous and elegant banquet they already furnish at so low a price. Gentle reader only think of this March No. now before us, containing 144 handsome pages, double columns, of the most agreeable and entertaining matter, illustrated by 52 fine engravings, and all for 25 cents. "Apology," gentlemen, it needs no such thing, especially from you.

Our readers will see under the head of "Economical Arrangements," &c., on the last page, that we offer them the above excellent magazine and our own for the low price of $4 a year. Who will not have *Harpers' New Monthly* and the *Agriculturist?*

REMEDY FOR LICE ON HORSES.

A correspondent at Milan, N. Y., asks for a remedy for lice on horses and colts.

Scotch snuff, well rubbed in between the hair and mane, is the best remedy we have seen applied. Some use a strong decoction of tobacco, others mercurial ointment. The latter is very dangerous, owing to the habit of colts biting each other. They are consequently very likely to get the ointment into their mouths and swallow some of it. This produces excessive salivation, and frequently death.

We have raised many colts but were never troubled with lice on them. They must be kept clear of hens and hen-roosts, and all other places where vermin are likely to harbor. If well fed then and cleaned, there is no danger of their getting lousy.

As soon as warm weather comes, we advise our correspondent to wash his colts well, two or three times a week, in mild, warm soap-suds, and continue the snuff till the lice disappear. In the meanwhile see that they are well fed, and have a clean dry place to lie in.

GUANO FOR CORN.

A correspondent from Norwalk, Ct., asks the best method of applying guano to corn.

Sow broad-cast in the fall of the year, and plow in the guano as deep as you please. Cross plow equally deep in the spring, and then plant. Of course the time has passed for doing this for the coming crop. The only safe way now, is to wait till the corn is up, in May or June, then mix the guano half and half with plaster of Paris, charcoal dust, or fine soil, and at the first time hoeing, apply two table-spoonsful of the mixture round the corn, about four inches from the stalks, and dig it in lightly with the spoon. If this can be done just before a rain it will be better. Careful boys or girls will do this very rapidly. As the corn is near silking, apply another table-spoonful of the same mixture around each hill, about nine inches from the stalks. This will make it ear much better, and give a larger quantity and finer quality of grain.

Guano is a very strong, burning manure. If plowed or harrowed in, just previous to planting, the slightest particle—even not much larger than a pin's head—which comes in contact with the finest roots of the corn, is liable to kill it; but by plowing it in during fall, it has time during the winter to mix well with the soil, which imbibes its strong, burning principle—the ammonia—and then there is no danger of its

injuring the crop. Perhaps if the guano were plowed in during March, six weeks or so previous to re-plowing and planting, the ammonia from it would be so well mixed with the soil as to prevent danger to the corn.

CIRCULAR SAWING MACHINE FOR SAWING LOGS.

We have frequent inquiries about a circular saw-mill for cutting boards from logs. The following information, furnished by a correspondentl of one of the best machines we know of, will doubtless be acceptable to many of our readers.

"It is a circular saw board machine, with two head blocks, twenty-four feet carriage and forty-eight inch diameter saw, will weigh about two tons, and costs from $450 to $550, according to its mode of construction. It requires steam or water to drive it, of about 12 or 15 horse-power. This machine has a number of new and valuable improvements, and it is giving entire satisfaction for cutting lumber as there is but little waste. Logs can be sawn from 5 to 24 inches diameter. With small logs they cut from six to eight thousand between sun and sun. One machine, with a good head of water, and a choice selection of pine logs, (just for an experiment to see what could be done in driving the machine to its utmost capacity,) sawed 1200 feet in one hour by the watch, but this is not a fair average of what it will ordinarily do. Very small logs of course would require more time in getting them on and off, than larger ones containing an equal quantity of lumber."

For the American Agriculturist.

CAN BONES BE DISSOLVED IN ASHES?

THERE seems to be little danger that farmers will not be sufficiently urged to collect bones for manure, as nearly every paper that has an agricultural column, appears to be calling their attention to the subject; but it is important, not only that the bones be saved, but used to the best advantage after they are saved. I notice a paragraph "going the rounds," stating that bones may be dissolved by making them into a heap with fresh ashes, moderately wet, and allowing them to remain a month or two. Now I have not tried this, but am very much inclined to doubt the efficacy of wet ashes as a solvent for bones, even though they remained in it a much longer time than a month or two. Will you be so good as to favor your readers with your opinion, whether this is one of the many worthless recipes that float through the newspapers, without any pains being taken to ascertain their origin or value, or whether it is reliable? If reliable, bones might be dissolved by this process much cheaper and easier than by the use of sulphuric acid. H. S. V.

We cannot now put our hands upon the paragraph alluded to. There are so many recipes for this and that, "going the rounds," which are entirely worthless, that we despair of correcting them, and generally let them pass unnoticed. It is really amusing to see many persons writing on chemistry, who have not the least practical knowledge of this science. We think there would be a hundred times less written on the chemistry of farming, if many of the editors of agricultural papers knew a hundred times more about it than they now do.

Bones are composed of two distinct parts, a fleshy (organic) and an earthy (inorganic.) Burn a bone, and you destroy its organic (fleshy) part, and leave a white mass—chiefly phosphate of lime—which retains nearly the form of the original bone. Caustic alkalies (caustic means *burning*) will in like manner destroy the organic part, and at the same time render the earthy part a little more brittle than burning, if the alkali is strong. But it is out of the question that a mass of moist ashes, containing at most but a small per centage of alkali, (potash,) should *dissolve* the whole bone. A correspondent writes us, this week, that he reduced bones to a *powder*, by boiling them in strong ley for four hours. We think he must have kept them *stirring* during most of the time, or they would not have become *powdered*.

We know of no dissolving process equal to using sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) where this can be obtained easily and cheaply, for most soils that need bone earth, seem to be benefited by the acid. To dissolve unground bones well, several months time is often needed. If they are ground, a few days at most is required. If they are first boiled in strong ley, so as to destroy the animal matter, the solution will be quite rapid. Where the acid cannot be obtained, it might be well to boil the bones in ley, or in water containing a large amount of ashes, for, in this way, the animal matter would be retained in a soapy form instead of being burned away, and the bones being made brittle, they could easily be crushed, and the whole mass be thus spread upon the land, after being mixed with muck, peat, &c.

HEAVY SPADE vs. LIGHT FORK.

DICKENS, in *Household Words*, gives an account of a trial of the comparative merit of these two implements at an agricultural gathering at Tiptree, the seat and farm of Mr. Mechi. The spade used was the ordinary farm spade, while the fork was two pounds lighter than the ordinary agricultural fork. It was ascertained that the fork would dig up easily hard strong ground that the spade could not efficiently do. The prongs of the light fork yield place to the stones and bend round them, loosening the soil and springing instantly when withdrawn into their original form.

A trial was also had between the light fork and the ordinary rigid and broad-bladed fork. "The man with the light fork earned four shillings while the other was earning two shillings and three pence, and the heavy fork after the match, required an outlay of sixpence for repairs. The savings in repairs and renovation, pay for the light fork several times in the course of the year, and in the labor the saving is so great that the man using this fork is said to lift—by the saving of two pounds in each effort—*five tons less in the course of a day's work* than his old-fashioned neighbor. It was ascertained by repeated trial that laborers with the light fork were able to perform their work more thoroughly with a saving of twenty per cent. of labor. These forks were composed of five narrow prongs of cast-steel, completed in one solid joint without joint or weld."

We believe Mr. HENRY PARTRIDGE, formerly of Sherburne, now of Medfield, Mass., was the first person who made the elastic hay and manure or spade fork, from a single piece of cast-steel; and that the English and other nations are the copyists of his invention.

Mr. P. first made the elastic cast-steel hay fork, "completed in one solid joint without joint or weld," in 1813. One of these was then purchased by a neighboring farmer, who used it every season till his death in 1851—*thirty-eight years!* It was still a good fork, and was then sold at auction with the other implements belonging to the estate.

In the year 1815, Mr P. commenced the manufacture of the elastic steel manure and spade fork, of four to eight tines, from one solid piece of cast steel as above, and these he continues to manufacture to the present day. His son, Mr. HENRY PARTRIDGE, Junr., is also engaged in their manufacture, and has become quite as eminent in the business as his excellent father.

Forks for handling tan and oysters are made the same as the above with ten to fourteen tines.

Mr. PARTRIDGE has greatly improved the small trip hammer and its movements; and has exercised his ingenuity in improving many other things connected with his manufacturing business.

In the above trial spoken of in *Dickens' Household Words*, it seems the cast-steel fork did the same labor, at an expense of *five tons less lifting in a single day.* What a boon this is to the laboring man; and for this he may thank the mechanical ingenuity of our worthy countryman, Mr. HENRY PARTRIDGE.

A NEW DESCRIPTIVE HEN'S-NEST.

UNDER this head, our venerable friend, the *Knickerbocker*, says in its March number that, he finds the following in a Southern journal:

This is one of the most ingenious contrivances of the age, and is the invention of a downeast Yankee. The design is to deceive poultry into the speedy and liberal laying of eggs, which is accomplished by the peculiar construction of the machine. At the bottom of the nest there is a trap-door, which works on a hinge, being supported by a spring. The moment an egg is placed on this, the trap opens and lets it fall through into a cushioned apartment prepared for its reception. The consequence is, that the bird, just as she is preparing to cackle, glances at the nest, and seeing nothing, actually reasons herself into the belief that she has not laid at all, and resumes her position on the nest, in hopes of making a more successful effort. On the first trial of this curious contrivance before the Commissioner of Patents, to test its virtues, a singular result was effected. A large imported Russian hen was "located" on the nest, and left to her meditations. On account of pressing business, the hen was forgotten until the next day, when, to the utter astonishment of the commissioner, a half-bushel of eggs was found in the cushioned chamber below.

The *Knickerbocker* then goes on to intimate that the above Southern paper has been infringing on his own patent, long before obtained for the "*Self-Acting Hen-Persuader.*" We should be glad if our fun-loving neighbor would give us the *exact* date of the caveat for the said patent, for we too have a "claim" of an invention to register; but whether it is as great an *antique* as that of our venerable contemporary, we shall leave him to determine. Suffice it to say, that upwards of six years ago, in the seventh volume of our journal, a grave contributor of ours, in his veritable history of "Yankee Farming," thus causes one of his heroines to speak:

"Du tell, Sargeant, now," interrupted the impatient Mrs. Doolittle, "have you hearn any thing about that 'ere patent hen's neest, way down to Inventionville, that keeps the hens layin' all the time? We haven't had a egg all winter, and I am dreadful fearful we shan't get one for settin' in the spring. Mr. Doolittle says he don't believe a word on 't; but I do, every bit; for I see it in the almanac; and the way was, as soon as the hen had laid the egg, it rolled down through a little trap-door into a

basket, when the hen looking under her could'nt find nothin' there, so concludin' she'd made a mistake and hadn't laid, she begun agin, and so kept on layin' as many as three or four a day, sometimes. He only asks five dollars for his patent; and sartin true, if I had one now, I could sell eggs enough before settin' time, to buy Molly a bran new silk frock, though she hardly desarves one."

Written for the American Agriculturist.

REMINISCENCES OF A FARMER'S DAUGHTER.

No. III.

BY MINNIE MYRTLE.

The old farm-house on the hill, how well I remember it, for I am a genuine farmer's daughter as I told you, and "my experience" is not at all an imaginary one. We lived away out of the village, were surrounded by farm-houses, and our only neighbors were farmers, therefore I have a right to say I know something about them, and how they live. But I cannot say they were all to my taste, or that they all had the refinement and cultivation which I think it should be the aim of every class of people to possess; yet I do know that in more than one family, there grew up sons and daughters, with all the strength of character which is the pride of our country; and not only with refinement, but elegance of manners such as I have rarely seen surpassed in any circle in city or country.

It was in my earliest childhood that I used to see it, the old farm-house, but I should never forget, were I to live a thousand years, the lady who presided there; her gentleness, her dignity, her loving-kindness, and her lady-like deportment—which would be called in courtly circles high-bred. I remember how sweetly she reproved little children if they were rude, so indelibly impressing upon their minds the importance of politeness even in their play, and the possibility of uniting freedom and joyousness with gentleness, that I do not think any who were brought within the sphere of her influence could fail to be nobler and better all the way through life.

She was one of those women whose "price is above rubies;" who "saw well to the ways of her household;" and emphatically exemplified that the better educated and more highly cultivated a woman is, the better she is fitted for all the duties of wife, and mother, and housekeeper. There is no more false and injurious notion, than that education is only necessary for those who are to depend upon it for the means of livelihood. We hear it often remarked of a son, "He is to be a farmer or mechanic, and therefore may leave school early, as 'learning' is not necessary to his success;" and of a daughter, "She is to be married, and aspires no higher than to be a farmer's or a mechanic's wife, and therefore can do without book-knowledge." Yet it is true that if a man is to plant corn, mow grass, and "fodder cattle" all his life, he can do it better, and be happier whilst doing it, if he has learned to do it scientifically, and has abundance of food for thought while so employed. I could bring a thousand instances to prove that the most cultivated women are the best house-keepers; for no woman can be a thoroughly good house-keeper who is not systematic; no woman can sweep and dust a room well who does not do it systematically—or "do a baking," or a washing, or practise economy; and the more thorough her education, the better she will be able to plan; and the more pleasant things she has to think about, the happier she will be at her toil; and thus more expertly and satisfactorily will it be performed.

The most intelligent woman I ever met, was one whose whole life was spent in the most severe and wearing toil; and never any where else did I see a house in such "apple-pie order," or eat such delicious bread, or meats cooked in such perfection, and all the economy and arrangements of house-keeping so thoroughly performed. There was never a day, even during "butchering week," or "soap-making," that she did not find, or make time to read, at least a page; and neither souse, nor sausages, nor soap, ever suffered on account of her love of reading.

But I must not forget the old farm-house and its presiding genius. It has become a proverb that the women of farmers' households lead a more toilsome and drudgery kind of life than the men, and I think this is true. One reason has ever been, that so little attention has been paid to convenience in the construction of those parts of the house where they must spend most of their time, and where their labor must be performed; and another is that the husbands and fathers have so little idea of the true nature of woman's toil. It seems to them *light work* to run round a cooking-stove, and sweep, and dust, and take care of children, while on the contrary it is infinitely more exhausting to mind and body than the labor of the field. Many and many a farmer do I know, who thinks his wife may perform all the labor of the household—the cooking, cleaning, butter making, and cheese pressing—which obliges her to rise early and sit up late, and never rest, and all because it costs so much to "hire a girl." But I could never see why it is not as reasonable to expect one man to do all the sowing, planting and plowing, the mowing, reaping or threshing, because it costs half the products of the farm to pay the "hired men." I suppose they would answer that the seeds would not be in the ground in season to spring up and bear fruit, and the grass would never become hay, and the grain would be spoiled before it could be cradled by one person. This is unanswerable: but because the wife does not spoil and become utterly useless in one season, it is not the less certain that she does spoil by such usage; and the children are spoiled, in the first place by her over-working when she needs rest and the kindest attention, and in the next place by neglect, because the mother has not time to devote to them. They are cross and fretful, when a little attention to their physical health and habits would keep them always well and pleasant.

Now the quiet, dignified lady in the old farm-house, was just such a farmer's wife. The house was an old castle of a thing, very well for some lord or duke who could afford to keep a train of servants, but not at all suited to the wants of a republican family in a republican land, where republican tastes should prevail, whether they do or not? The china closet was in the parlor, according to the custom in a multitude of just such houses that I have seen, for what reason I never could divine, unless because all the *best things* must of course be in the parlor, and to reach it from the kitchen, one must go at least a Sabbath day's journey. The dining-room was half way between; the milk-room down cellar, and the cheese-room out doors! To prepare one meal, a woman must necessarily walk miles, and to do the work of a day was worse than a pedestrian tour to Mexico. I will tell you some day how she did it, and what was the secret of her success.

Miscellaneous.

For the American Agriculturist.

TRAINING CHILDREN.

I notice what is said in the *Agriculturist*, No. 24, page 375, headed "Children of 1854."

If there be any one thing more interesting than another, it is children, beginning with the wee ones at the mother's breast up to the group in the play-grounds around the country villa or cottage. Surely that man or woman is not far removed from the brute who does not love children when well trained and taught obedience, and I can subscribe to Aunt Fanny's creed, and add to it many more articles.

But here lies the great cause of the many evils which befal the children of the present day, viz., the want of parental government. Children are not taught obedience. There is no lack of commands or demands, neither of which are enforced, but they are allowed to disobey them with impunity, and to have their own way and carry their own points in almost every thing, either by teasing, open rebellion, or stealth; hence they become a pest and vexation in our public conveyances, our boarding-houses, and more especially in our schools; for children who are not taught obedience at home, will seldom when abroad submit to rule, however simple and reasonable. On this account both parents and children who do their duty, have to suffer by the neglect of those who do not. Can any one point out a remedy for this growing evil before it be too late?

Almost an Octogenarian.

ANY BODY'S CHILD.

The following story by Dickens, is as true of thousands of children in the city of New York, as in London. It behoves the public to take care of them; and we may be assured if the State *schools* do not educate the wild urchins, roaming about without house or home, and belonging to any and no body, the State *prisons* will. The rich had much better be taxed for the proper education of poor, ignorant children, than for their support in prisons, and the expense of a largepolice force, criminal lawyers, and judges. Some of the ideas in this story of Dickens, are the same as those in the communication in our last week's paper by "Almost an Octogerarian;" but we know the writer of that had not seen this, when he wrote his article.

Any body's child is a sad little being. You find him playing at marbles in a city alley. His feet are bare, his clothes are ragged, his voice is hard and cracked, his hair is matted down over his eyes, his hands are thin and angular, his knees protrude through his torn trousers, and those rags are kept on by a piece of cord that passes over his shoulder. How keen are the eyes that leer out at you from under that hair-thatched brow! They read

you off in a minute. Any body's child can tell, at a glance of those sharp eyes, whether you have any thing or nothing in your pocket; whether your heart is hard or soft; whether you are a parish officer or a detective policeman. You may deceive casual observers, but Any body's child is not be done. Admitted.

He has no respect for you; if you freely offer him money, you are a flat; he has a ready impertinence to throw at you should you be harsh to him; he hates you if you be either a parish officer or a detective. If you be a philanthropist he listens to you only to laugh at you. Any body's child is twelve years old, yet he has had great experience in the world. He is skilled in every artifice, and ready to profit by any. Admitted.

Is it his cue to be penitent, to repent thoroughly, to cry, and call himself an abandoned wretch and a miserable sinner, to declare that there is no good in him, that death is the best possible thing that could happen to him, to exhibit a knowledge of religious observances—he will do all this, you know he will. Admitted.

First, he cries; then he allows himself to be soothed; then he describes the terrible hardships he has suffered; then he strikes up a psalm, which he sings very fairly. This performance is well adapted to touch the feelings and to influence the pockets of the good ladies who go their rounds courageously, about the worst by-ways of the city, doing what they conceive to be their duty, quietly and firmly; distributing, with real charity of heart—but often to unworthy objects—money which they can ill spare. Any body's child knows these good ladies very well. He hears what they have to say with downcast eyes; and he is very serious when he takes the tracts they are so good as to distribute. But how can he read while he is hungry? The lady is certainly to be touched by this appeal, and all honor to her gentle heart! Any body's child receives sixpence. Then the lady proceeds to the next court, and Any body's child buys some pudding at a house close at hand—which he wraps up in the tract—and saves twopence for the low theatre at night. You know all that is true of Any body's child. Admitted.

Any body's child plays other parts. Many come to inquire into his condition; to ask him about his parentage, his mode of life, the number of times he has been in prison, the games he has played. To these he appears very hardened indeed. He has no recollection of his mother, and his father is somewhere in the country. He is allowed to sleep upon a pallet in the corner of a kind old woman's kitchen up a court. He lives by all sorts of stratagems. He holds gentlemen's horses; he goes out with costermongers to cry their wares. He has been offered the situation of errand-boy, to carry out goods; but he never liked it; such places was always too hard for him. He has been in prison many times, five or six times at least. He proceeds to repeat the prison regulations, for he knows them by heart. He has been engaged with other boys in taking lead from house-roofs; in "snow gathering," (a poetic expression for clothes stealing from hedges,) in picking pockets at fairs. He can turn his hand to any thing destructive; but finds the world is again him. He knows very well that he is an outcast, and that boys of his sort are not to be admitted into any decent companionship. Yet his is a hard life—his is. He has tried very often to do something for himself—he has; but it ain't of no use, he can't keep to nothing; he gets tired of it, and people gets tired of him. He supposes he will be transported at last. He doesn't much care what becomes of him. As for a home—he has never had a home. He is glad his father has gone away, for he was always a thrashing of him. He will say all this to you, will Any body's child. Admitted.

Any body's child here begins a true story, a little colored. He watches narrowly the expression of his questioner, and shapes his answer according to the result of his observation. He thinks there is a chance of getting something out of his listener, perhaps half-a-crown, perhaps a passage to the diggings; but he is afraid it may be an introduction to some reformatory institution.

Any body's child plays a third part. Admitted. This is played when he is accosted by an inquirer who is the sworn advocate of popular education. Herein the child is a mass of ignorance. He has never heard who is king or queen. He is not certain that it ain't the Black Prince. How should he know? He has heard of the Creator once or twice, but knows nothing about the New Testament. Cannot read or write; wishes he could. Will go to the ragged school; wouldn't he like to? But he must have something to eat, afore he can think of learning any thing. Has heard of all sorts of places built to do good to him; but he doesn't like them. He isn't fond of work. It's a hard life in the streets; but he will get used to it in time.

All this admitted. Admit on the other hand—you must, if you admit the sun and the eternal heavens to be realities—that *while opponents discuss theories, he grows up to Newgate and perdition.*

Yet, truly regarded, Any body's child is something more than this worthless little wretch and irredeemable outcast. Because he cannot be made to mend his ways in a few weeks; because it is not easy to make him the quiet inhabitant of a monotonous House of Refuge; because he cannot recognize a ministering angel in a police officer; because he is slow to learn, and has a disgust for the irksome foundations of education; because the wild animal of a city alley cannot, in a few days, become a lap-dog for lady visitors to pat and smooth; voices begin to cry aloud that the case is hopeless. Let our voice cry aloud, instead, To whom does Any body's child belong? To some of us, surely, if not to all of us. *What are our laws, if they secure for this child no protection; what are we, if, under our eyes, Any body's child grows up to be Every body's enemy.*

Any body's child is undoubtedly Some body's child. To discover this Some body, who basely deserts it, should be the duty of the State; and the law's heaviest hand would we lay upon this Some body. The State, professing and calling itself Christian, and therefore refusing to breed plagues and wild beasts and rubbish to be shot into the bottomless pit, *should systematically take that child, and make it a good citizen.* And as it can, in most cases find out Some body when he or she has done a murder on the body, so let it find out Some body guilty of the worse murder of this child's soul, and punish that heaviest of all offenders, in pocket and person.

Any body's child is a little fiend, a social curse, a hypocrite, a liar, a thief. Admitted. But if the State had long ago made Some body accountable for the child, and taken upon itself the duties of parent, Any body's child, in lieu of the dreadful creature you recoil from, would now be a hopeful little fellow, with the roses of youth upon his cheeks, and the truth of happy childhood on his lips.

Any body's child cannot too soon become the adopted of us all; and the Some body who gave it birth cannot too soon or too relentlessly be made to pay the charges of the adoption, or be punished in default. Recent conferences on this shame to England have renewed our hopes of Any body's child. Reader, as you have children of your own, or were a child yourself, remember him!

From the Knickerbocker Magazine.

LITTLE PEOPLE'S SIDE-TABLE.

A WEE fellow was learning to read in a picture-primer. He commenced one morning "H-e-n." Well, what does that spell? It puzzled him; but after ogling at the picture a moment, his face suddenly brightened, and, looking up triumphantly, he ejaculated:

"Rooster!"

ANOTHER, at another time, happened to be reading of the curious skin of an elephant.

"Did you ever see an elephant's skin?" I asked.

"*I* have!" shouted a little "six-year old" at the foot of the class.

"Where?" I asked, quite amused at his earnestness.

"*On the elephant!*" said he, with a most provoking grin.

He had *seen* "the elephant," that boy, young as he was.

A LITTLE boy came in one morning, with his eyes wide open, and inquired if the Chinese stood on their heads.

"No," I answered, somewhat surprised at the question; "why?"

"'Cause," said he, "Jim Brown says they live under us, on the other side of the world, and I don't see how they stick, any how."

A LITTLE girl here, after repeating her usual prayer which her sick mother had taught her, asked if she might say "words of her own." Leave been given, she went on:

"O Lord! don't let my ma die, nor my pa, nor gran'-pa, nor gran'-ma, nor any of my uncles and aunts, or any of my cousins; and don't let our hired girl die; but, O Lord, you may let who else die you are a mind to!"

TWO OR THREE THOUSAND PIGS.—During a recent visit to the interior, we heard of an incident not yet cold on the breath of local circulation, which had as well receive newspaper life and immortality now as at any other time. A city-country gentleman of the section, which we were visiting, who *listphs* after the most approved fashion, wanted a few pigs, for the purpose of supplying his family with roasters in the fall and bacon in the winter. He had a new man-of-all-work, who was not very familiar with his peculiarity of speech, and had not exactly taken the trouble to acquaint himself with the line of business in which his employer was engaged.

"John," said the city-country gentleman, one day after breakfast, "go out this morning and buy me two or three thows and pigs."

"Yes, sir," replied John, "it shall be done."

John did not return till late in the day, when he was met by his master and accosted thus:

"Did you get 'em?"

"No sir," answered John, "not all. The drovers have been about buying up large numbers, and I could get only eight hundred."

"Eight hundred *what*, thir?" demanded the master impatiently.

"Eight hundred *pigs*, as you told me," replied John.

"I told you no such thing. I told you, thir, to go and buy me two or three thows and pigs."

"I know it," answered Jonn, "but I couldn't get two or three thousand. I've been out all day, and scoured the whole country, and could get but eight hundred.

Light now, for the first time after the order had been given, flashed on the gentleman's mind. He comprehended the cause of the misunderstanding, and although not exactly in the mood for laughing, very good naturedly pocketed the costly joke, and asked:

"How many did you get, John?"

"Eight hundred, sir, and that was all I *could* get."

"And did you *buy* them outright, John, or only talk of taking them?"

"Bought them for good," replied John, "and had hard work to keep them out of the hands of the drovers, and the owners will be here for their pay in the morning."

The best of the joke, so far as the gentleman was concerned, is to follow. This happened last season. The hogs were received, kept and fed for a short time, and then sold for the block at a handsome profit.—*Louisville Courier.*

For the American Agriculturist.

FACTS IN FRAGMENTS.

A hog's taste would not generally be considered very fastidious, but, according to Linnæus, the hog eats only 72 species of plants, while the horse eats 262; the cow, 276; the sheep, 387; and the goat, 449.

The Potato is a native of South America, and is still found in Peru and Chili growing wild, in which state it is small and bitter. It is said to have first attracted the notice of a European botanist by its flower. Potatoes were introduced into Great Britain in the latter part of the sixteenth century, but by whom is uncertain. Some historians say by Sir Walter Raleigh, while others mention other adventurers to the new world. They were at first cultivated as rarities, without any idea of their importance as an article of general cultivation. Their spread over the countries of Europe was slow, and in some of them they are now but little cultivated.

Wheat and Rye grow spontaneously in Tartary and Siberia. Wheat is also indigenous in Sicily. Oats grow wild in Abyssinia. Buckwheat is said to be a native of Asia. The native country of Barley is unknown. Indian Corn is a native of America. Rice of Ethiopia. It was introduced into South Carolina from Madagascar, in 1693 or 4. Artichokes, Cabbage, and Lettuce, are said to be natives of Holland; Asparagus of Asia; Onions and Garlic of various eastern countries; Horse Radish of China; Mustard of Great Britain; Beans of the East Indies; Pumpkins of America; Peaches and Cherries of Persia; Plums and Apricots of Asia; Hemp of Persia and India. Flax grows spontaneously in Persia, but the cultivated variety is supposed to have originated in Egypt. Tobacco is a native of America. It is supposed to have been introduced into England in 1586, by Ralph Lane and the colony under his command, who returned from Roanoke in that year. Probably it was introduced by order of Sir Walter Raleigh, under whose auspices the colony had been sent out, who had learned its use of the Indians, or in France, where it had previously been introduced by Nicot, from whom it takes its generic name, *Nicotiania*. The Sugar Cane is a native of China or the East Indies, where sugar has been manufactured from it from a very remote period. Sugar is first mentioned by a European writer, A.D. 625, but for centuries after was sold only as a medicine, and previous to its cultivation in the West Indies it did not come into general use as an article of food.

Previous to the commencement of the sixteenth century, our English ancestors appear to have known little of gardening, as they imported their vegetables from the Netherlands.

Merino Sheep were first introduced into this country in 1802, by Robert R. Livingston. The same year one hundred were imported at Humphreysville, Ct., by Gen. Humphreys, at that time Minister to Spain.

A singular custom prevails in Valetta, the capital of the Island of Malta, which effectually protects the inhabitants from all danger of purchasing adulterated milk. The milkmen take their goats to the doors of their customers in the morning and evening, when the customer sends or brings out a vessel, and the goat-herd, kneeling down by one of his animals, milks from it the required quantity.

The custom with persons who cannot write of making their mark in the form of a cross, thus, +, originated in the days of papal ignorance and superstition, when it was ordained that those who were unable to write their names, should make a cross to show that they were Christians. H. S. V.

Running down a Competitor.—If it be policy for a tradesman to run down the goods and character of a competitor, the following may be considered an exception to the general rule:

"What's the price of that coat?" inquired a countryman, the other day, of a merchant in this city.

"That? The price of this, sir, is eight dollars; and very cheap at that price," anwered the merchant.

"I can't exactly agree with you then," said the customer; "I only paid six for the one I have on."

"That may be," replied the merchant, "and I should consider that you would have been horribly bitten, if you had paid half that sum for it. I don't sell such goods as that. Why look at it! it is miserable stuff, and merely basted together, at that; and the man who sold it to you knew it at the time. He is a great cheat, whoever he is, and deserves to be publicly condemned."

"That's just the opinion I've had of him ever since I made the purchase," said the customer; "I bought this coat of you some six months ago!"

The merchant was suddenly reminded of some other butiness that needed his attention, and left the customer in the hands of his clerk.

A Model Christmas Present.—We met one of our industrious young mechanics, who was congratulating himself upon having found in his stocking, this morning, a most elegantly wrought purse, with fifteen dollars, in bright gold, "enclosed," the purse made by his happy young wife, and the money saved by her from his regular contributions for family expenses. Besides the affectionateness of this appropriate holiday *douceur*, it is a text from which a whole volume of good sermons might be written on the subject of household economy. It reminds us of Solomon's beautiful proverb about a good wife.—*Ohio Statesman.*

Oyster Life.—An imaginative naturalist has pictured the life of an oyster as one of the happiest of destinies. He has described him as carefully lodged in a dwelling of pearl, fed with the rich produce of the swelling tides, growing delicately corpulent with luxuries which he receives by the mere trouble of opening his mouth, soothed to slumber by the gentle ripple of the waves that roll above and around him, and cheered amid the intervals of his almost continuous dreams by the consideration that his death even is to be glorious as that of the white bull sacrificed to Jove, or the tender virgin who saved her country by her passage down the throat of the Minotaur. Faint ideas of discomfort are suggested by such traditions as those of the "Oyster crossed in love;" but on the whole, the lot of the oyster is a glorious one. He swims in a sensuous paradise until the crash of the oyster-knife comes thundering in to put an end to his life; and then he lies white, succulent, and resigned, ready to be offered an unresisting sacrifice to the gastronomic sensibilities of some refined palate.

"Young America."—The Lafayette (Ind.) *Journal* tells a good story of a precocious little fellow who walked into the house of a citizen of that city one day last week, and after taking a seat by the fire, very coolly informed the lady of the house that he was on his way to Chicago, and, if they had no objection, he would remain over night. The lady, of course, consented, and the little stranger was kindly cared for. He gave his name as Charlie, and said he lived in Cleveland. When asked what he was going to Chicago for, he answered that he was "traveling for his health." All attempts to obtain the name of his parents were unavailing. He obstinately persisted that he *never had any.*

The Worst of It.—"Do you want any berries, ma'am?" said a little boy to a lady one day. The little fellow was very shabbily clothed, and his feet were bare and travel-stained. In both hands he held up a tin pail full of ripe raspberries, which were prettily peeping out from amid the green leaves that lay lightly over them. The lady told him she should like some; and taking the pail from him, she stepped into the house. He did not follow, but remained behind whistling to some canaries hanging in their cage on the porch.

"Why do you not come in, and see if I measure your berries right?" said the lady, "how do you know but what I may cheat you?"

The boy looked archly up at her and smiled. "I am not afraid," said he, "for you would *get the worst of it*, ma'am." "Get the worst of it!" said she, "what do you mean?"

"Why, ma'am, I should only lose my berries, and you would be stealing; don't you think you would get the worst of it?"

Intermarriage of Blood Relations.—The *Fredericksburg News* says: In the county in which we were raised, for twenty generations back, a certain family of wealth and respectability have intermarried until there cannot be found in three or four of them a sound man or woman. One has sore eyes, another scrofula, a third is idiotic, a fourth blind, a fifth bandy-legged, a sixth with a head about the size of a turnip, with not one out of the number exempt from physical or mental defects of some kind. Yet this family perseveres to intermarry with each other, with these living monuments constantly before them.

Large Ox.—The *Ogdensburg Sentinel* says Mr. Perkins, of Hydepark, Vt., has an ox on exhibition in Ogdensburg which weighs 3,935 pounds. This Behemoth was raised at Hydepark, is now in his sixth year, and is still growing, having gained the past year nearly 400 pounds. He stands 6 feet 4 inches high, and measures from rump to nose 12 feet 4 inches, and from tip to tip 20 feet. He is considered the largest specimen of horned cattle in the world. Mr. Perkins is on his way to Illinois, whither he has removed his family, in order as he says, to let the animal attain his growth, Vermont being too crowded for that purpose.

Substitute for the Common Brick.—Martin Keenan, of Milford Mass., says—"I think a substitute for brick, as good and cheap, can be manufactured as follows: Take a metal mould, first filled with heated gravel, and then pour melted glass into it, and leave it to cool gradually. I think each mould would not require more glass than is contained in a common black bottle. These are sold for a cent each, the blowing of which must cost half that sum." There appears to be something in this.

"Mother, what is a *hush?*" "A *hush*, child? I do not know—what makes you ask?" "Cause the other day I asked Jane what made her back stick out so, and she said *hush.*"

When Adam got tired naming his descendants, he said: "Let all the rest be called Smith."

PROOF THAT FLAME IS HOLLOW.—Pour some spirits of wine into a watch-glass and inflame it; place a straw across this flame, and it will only be ignited and charred at the outer edge; the middle of the straw will be uninjured, for there is no igniting matter in the center of the flame; or introduce into the middle of the flame one end of a glass tube, when the vapor will rise through it, and may be lighted at the other end of the tube.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF VIRGINIA.—A bill is before the Legislature of Virginia, and likely to become a law, which provides for a geological survey of the State.

EXPORT OF PIGS AND POULTRY.—We understand that one of Adams & Co's express cars was entirely occupied yesterday with pigs and poultry to be shipped at New-York for England, in answer to orders from that country. The total value of the lot is about $1,000.—*Boston Traveler.*

SICK HEADACHE.—The following cure for the sick headache was furnished to the Boston *Medical Journal*, by Dr. N. S. Folsom, of Portsmouth, N. H.:

Take any number of drops of Croton Oil, mix them with flour and molasses, and make as many pills as drops of the oil used. When the patient begins to feel the sick headache coming on, one-half of a pill is to be taken every hour in molasses, or something of like consistence, until it acts as a cathartic; and thus treat the sick headache at each attack. If thus taken, each attack will be less severe, and in some cases a few doses produce a permanent cure. He seems to think the Croton Oil acts in three ways: 1st. By increasing the secretions. 2d. By counteracting the anti-peristaltic action of the stomach and bowels; and 3d, by acting as a counter-irritant to the brain.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS.

WE find that by using such good paper, our volume of 832 pages will be quite large to bind, and especially large for those who wish to stitch their paper together with an index, without being at the expense of binding. To obviate this, we have concluded to be at the expense and trouble of making out an extra index with No. 26, so as to form a complete volume of the first 26 numbers. The index for the next 26 numbers will be given at the end of the year, or with No. 52. This arrangement will make it convenient for all, as the 52 numbers can be stitched or bound in two volumes with an index for each, or in one volume with the double index at the close.

We hope all will preserve their numbers, for there are many single articles each of which will be worth the price of the volume, for future reference. When the paper arrives from the post-office, a good plan is to see that it is properly folded, and then pin or sew it through the middle and cut open the leaves. It is very easy to stitch 26 numbers together. To do this, arrange them in regular order, and with an awl punch several holes about one-fourth of an inch from the back, and through these run a strong thread two or three times with a darning-needle, and the work is done. We have scores of volumes of papers, pamphlets, and addresses, thus prepared, which serve all the purposes of a bound volume, and occupy less room in storing and carrying. We would, however, prefer to see volumes of agricultural papers neatly bound and laid upon the book-shelves or tables of farmers. They are much better and more appropriate ornaments, than gilded volumes of trashy magazines or novels.

ONE WORD MORE.—We thank our friends for the liberal aid they have afforded us in extending the circulation of the *Agriculturist.* Our list has increased beyond our expectation, and we are daily encouraged to labor with the utmost diligence, to make our paper worthy of the confidence and admiration of our largely increasing list of readers. Our reliance for the continuance and increase of our list is upon those who are already readers. As stated above, we now divide the year so as to give either one or two *complete* volumes of the 52 numbers. This number begins the second volume or half of the year. We respectfully request all our present subscribers to make a little exertion at this time, and each send us on at least one new name. If you cannot get your neighbors to send on for a year, ask them to try the paper for six months, as in that time they will get a complete volume of 416 pages with index for $1, or less if clubs are formed. Where clubs already exist new names may be added at the same rate, and these names may be at different post-offices. See the last page for terms, special notices to subscribers, &c.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have several communications on hand which we will look over as soon as we have time, and some of them will be published. It is no trifling labor to prepare for the printer many communications which we receive. Some are written so closely that there is not room to put in corrections, without rewriting the whole. We cheerfully prepare articles, unless there is manifest *want of care* on the part of the writer. If he does as well as he can, we make all needful changes and corrections.

As most writers doubtless wish to improve their own style, we suggest to them to keep an exact copy of their communications, and then compare this copy with the printed sheet. They may often learn something in this way.

We are not anxious to receive original poetry. We have little space for rhyme, and we have good selections enough to last us a year at least. Good poetry, however, will not be rejected; but we advise all who attempt to write in verse to remember, that good *rhyme* does not constitute *good poetry;* on the contrary, some of the best *poetry* we have ever seen does not "*rhyme*" at all, while some of the best *rhyme* contains not a single *poetic* sentiment.

Markets.

REMARKS.—Flour has fluctuated the past week 25 cents per bbl., but closes at our last rates. Corn is 2 to 3 cents per bushel lower than last week. Some are looking for a re-action in breadstuffs; but we noticed in our latest advices from Europe, that extraordinary measures were taken in the Baltic ports to forward wheat to England. Shippers have been at the expense, in some instances, even of cutting canals through the ice in the harbors, to haul out their vessels loaded with grain for the English market. Such efforts as these will have considerable influence in keeping down the corn market.

Pork a decline of 50 cents per bbl. Lard and Beef unchanged. Cotton a decline of ¼ cent per lb., Rice no change, Sugar a slight improvement.

Money is more in demand, and worth outside of the banks 9 to 15 per cent. Stocks have given way more or less the past week.

The weather continues favorable for spring work, and the gardens around us are being rapidly planted with salad, peas, potatoes, &c. An unusual large quantity of spring wheat and rye are being sowed, and preparations are making for an extra quantity of barley, oats, and corn. This is wise on the part of the farmers, as all these products are likely to bring good prices the ensuing season.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

Wholesale prices of the more important Vegetables, Fruits, &c.

Washington Market, New-York, March 11, 1854.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes Junes, ₱ bbl., $3; Western Reds, $2 50; Mercers, $$3 25; Merinos, $2 37½; Onions red, ₱ bbl. $2 37½; yellow, $2 50; white, $3; Turnips, Russia, ₱ bushel, 68c.; white, 62½c.; Cabbages, ₱ doz., $1 12½; Carrots, ₱ bushel, 62½c.; Celery, ₱ doz. bunches, $1 25@$1 50.

FRUITS.—Apples, Spitzenburgs, ₱ bbl., $4 50; Greenings, ₱ bbl., $4; Russets, ₱ bbl., $3@$3 25; Cranberries, of an extra quality, ₱ bbl., $9; Maple Sugar, 12½c. per lb.

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

Monday, March 13, 1854.

THE sales are reported as rather more brisk than last week, and the cattle look full as well as last week.

Washington Yards, Forty-fourth street.
A. M. ALLERTON, Proprietor.

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.		IN MARKET TO-DAY
Beeves,	2,009	1,984
Cows,	48	
Calves,	644	
Sheep,	746	300
Swine,	260	60

Of these there were forwarded by the Harlem Railroad, beeves, 47; cows, 48; sheep, 446.
By the Hudson River railroad, beeves, 800; sheep, 300.
By the Erie railroad, beeves, 850; swine, 260.
New-York State, furnished by cars, 630.
From Pennsylvania, on foot, 224.
Ohio, by cars, 776.
Kentucky, by cars, 301.

Mr. ALLERTON gives the following prices: Cattle, 8½@10½c.; Calves, 4½@6½c.; Sheep, $3 50@$10 per head; Cows, from $30@$50, according to quality.

CHAMBERLIN'S, Robinson street.

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.		IN MARKET TO-DAY.
Beeves,	275	
Cows and Calves,	60	15
Sheep,	2,900	450
Veals,	25	

BROWNING'S, Sixth street.

Beeves,	257	
Cows,	74	
Sheep,	2,628	1200

O'BRIEN'S, Sixth street.

Beeves,	65	
Cows,	87	

The following are the prices at Mr. CHAMBERLIN'S, Robinson Street: Cattle, 8@10c.; Cows and Calves, the sales rather slow, and were from $25@$35@$50; Sheep, $3 25@$5@$7 and $10 for some extras. One lot of 600 sold for $5@5 62½; Veals, 5@7c. per pound.

At Washington Market, Pork in the carcase is worth 7 to 8c. per pound; Mutton, 6 to 8c.

PRICES CURRENT.

Produce, Groceries, Provisions, Lumber, &c.

Ashes.			
Pot, 1st sort, 1853	₱ 100 lbs.	5 93½	@ 6
Pearl, 1st sort, 1852		6 62½	@ —
Beeswax.			
American Yellow	₱ lb.	— 28	@ 29
Bristles.			
American, Gray and White		— 40	@— 45
Coal.			
Liverpool Orrel	₱ chaldron,	10 50	@ 14 —
Scotch		— —	@ — —
Sidney		7 75	@ 50
Pictou		8 50	@ —
Anthracite	₱ 2,000 lb.	6 50	@ 7 —

Cotton.	*Atlantic Ports.*	*Florida.*	*Other Gulf Ports.*
Inferior	— @—	—@—	— @—
Low to good ord	7⅛@8⅛	7⅛@8⅛	7⅛@8⅛
Low to good mid	9⅛@10⅛	10⅛@11⅛	11 @11⅛
Mid. fair to fair	10 @11	11⅛@11⅜	11⅛@12
Fully fr. to good fr.	11⅛@—	11⅛@—	— @12⅛
Good and fine	— @—	— @—	— @—

Cotton Bagging.			
Gunny Cloth	₱ yard,	— 11¼	@11¼
American Kentucky		— —	@— —
Dundee		— —	@— —
Coffee.			
Java, White	₱ lb.	— 13	@—14
Mocha		— 13½	@—14
Brazil		— 10½	@—12
Maracaibo		— 12	@—12½
St. Domingo (cash)		— 9¾	@—10¼
Cordage.			
Bale Rope	₱ lb.	— 7	@—10
Boit Rope		— —	@—16
Corks.			
Velvet, Quarts	₱ gro.	— 35	@—45
Velvet, Pints		— 20	@—28
Phials		— 4	@—12
Feathers.			
Live Geese, prime	₱ lb.	— 46	@— 49
Flax.			
Jersey	₱ lb.	— 8	@— 9

Flour and Meal.

Sour	₱ bbl.	7 25	@7 50
Superfine No. 2		7 50	@7 62½
State, common brands		7 87½	@7 93¾
State, Straight brand		7 93¾	@8 —
State, favorite brands		8 06¼	@8 18¾
Western, mixed do		7 87½	@7 93¾
Michigan and Indiana, Straight do		8 —	@8 06¼
Michigan, fancy brands		8 12½	@8 18¾
Ohio, common to good brands		7 37½	@8 13
Ohio, round hoop, common		7 37½	@8 —
Ohio, fancy brands		8 18¾	@8 25
Ohio, extra brands		8 25	@8 75
Michigan and Indiana, extra do		8 25	@8 62½
Genesee, fancy brands		8 25	@8 37½
Genesee, extra brands		8 50	@10 —
Canada, (in bond)		7 75	@7 87½
Brandywine		8 18¾	@8 31¼
Georgetown		8 18¾	@8 31¼
Petersburgh City		8 18¾	@8 31¼
Richmond Country		8 —	@8 18¾
Alexandria		8 —	@8 18¾
Baltimore, Howard Street		8 —	@8 18¾
Rye Flour		6 87½	@5 93¾
Corn Meal, Jersey		— —	@4 25
Corn Meal, Brandywine		4 50	@5—
Corn Meal, Brandywine	₱ punch.	21 —	@ —

Grain.

Wheat, White Genesee	₱ bush.	1 95	@2 —
Wheat, do., Canada (in bond)		2 —	@2 —
Wheat, Southern, White		1 85	@1 93
Wheat, Oh'o, White		1 85	@1 90
Wheat, Michigan, White		1 88	@1 95
Wheat, Mixed Western		1 82	@1 86
Wheat, Western Red		1 80	@1 85
Rye, Northern		1 24	@ —
Corn, Unsound		— —	@—85
Corn, Round Yellow		— 86	@— 88
Corn, Round White		- 89	@- 90
Corn, Southern White		- 90	@- 93
Corn, Southern Yellow		- 89	@—90
Corn, Southern Mixed		- 85	@- 86
Corn, Western Mixed		- 86	@- 87
Corn, Western Yellow		— —	@ —
Barley		— 95	@1 10
Oats, River and Canal		— 50	@—53
Oats, New-Jersey		— 46	@—48
Oats, Western		— 54	@—55¼
Oats, Penna		— 47	@—49
Oats, Southern		— 43	@—45
Peas, Black-eyed	₱ 2 bush.	2 75	@2 87½
Peas, Canada	bush.	1 18¾	@— —
Beans, White		1 50	@1 62½

Hair.

Rio Grande, Mixed	₱ lb.	— 23	@ — 23¼
Buenos Ayres, Mixed		— 21	@ — 23

Hay, FOR SHIPPING:

North River, in bales	₱ 100 lbs.	— 87½	@— 90

Hemp.

Russia, clean	₱ ton.	285 —	@320 —
Russia, Outshot		— —	@ — —
Manilla	₱ lb.	— 13½	@ — —
Sisal		— 10	@ — —
Sunn		— 5¼	@ — —
Italian	₱ ton,	240 —	@ — —
Jute		120 —	@125
American, Dew-rotted		195 —	@200 —
American, do., Dressed		210 —	@260 —
American, Water-rotted		— —	@ — —

Hops.

1853	₱ lb.	— 40	@ — 44
1852		— 38	@ — 40

Lime.

Rockland, Common	₱ bbl.	— —	@ 1 13

Lumber.

	WHOLESALE PRICES.		
Timber, White Pine	₱ cubic ft.	— 18	@ — 22
Timber, Oak		— 25	@ — 30
Timber, Grand Island, W. O		— 35	@ — 38
Timber, Geo. Yel. Pine	(by cargo)	— 18	@ — 22
	YARD SELLING PRICES		
Timber, Oak Scantling	₱ M. ft.	30 —	@ 40 —
Timber, or Beams, Eastern		17 50	@ 18 75
Plank, Geo. Pine, Worked		— —	@ 35 —
Plank, Geo. Pine, Unworked		20 —	@ 25 —
Plank and Boards, N. R. Clear		37 50	@ 40 —
Plank and Boards, N. R. 2d qual		30 —	@ 35 —
Boards, North River, Box		16 —	@ 17 —
Boards, Albany Pine	₱ pce.	— 16	@ — 22
Boards, City Worked		— 22	@ — 24
Boards, do. narrow, clear ceiling		— 25	@ — —
Plank, do., narrow, clear flooring		— 25	@ — —
Plank, Albany Pine		— 26	@ — 32
Plank, City Worked		— 26	@ — 32
Plank, Albany Spruce		— 18	@ — 20
Plank, Spruce, City Worked		— 22	@ — 24
Shingles, Pine, sawed	₱ bunch,	2 25	@ 2 50
Shingles, Pine, split and shaved		2 75	@ 3 —
Shingles, Cedar, 3 ft. 1st qual	₱ M.	24 —	@ 28 —
Shingles, Cedar, 3 ft. 2d quality		22 —	@ 25 —
Shingles, Cedar, 2 ft. 1st quality		19 —	@ 21 —
Shingles, Cedar, 2 ft. 2d quality		17 —	@ 18 —
Shingles, Company, 3 ft		32 —	@ — —
Shingles, Cypress, 2 ft		— —	@ 16 —
Shingles, Cypress, 3 ft		— —	@ 22 —
Staves, White Oak, Pipe		65 —	@ — —
Staves, White Oak, Hhd		52 —	@ — —
Staves, White Oak, Bbl		40 —	@ — —
Staves, Red Oak, Hhd		38 —	@ 35 —
Heading, White Oak		60 —	@ — —

Molasses.

New-Orleans	₱ gall.	— 29	@ — —
Porto Rico		— 24	@ — 28
Cuba Muscovado		— 25	@ — 27
Trinidad Cuba		— 25	@ — 27
Cardenas, &c		— 23½	@ — 24

Nails.

Cut, 4d@60d	₱ lb.	— 4½	@— 5
Wrought, 6d@20d		— —	@ — —

Naval Stores.

Turpentine, Soft, North County	₱ 280 lb.	— —	@ 5 75
Turpentine, Wilmington		— —	@ 5 50
Tar	₱ bbl.	3 —	@ 3 50
Pitch, City		2 75	@ — —
Resin, Common, (delivered)		1 75	@ 1 87½
Resin, White	₱ 280 lb.	2 50	@ 4 75
Spirits Turpentine	₱ gall.	— 66	@ — 68

Oil Cake.

Thin Oblong, City	₱ ton,	— —	@— —
Thick, Round, Country		— —	@28 —
Thin Oblong Country		— —	@33 —

Provisions.

Beef, Mess, Country	₱ bbl.	9 25	@11 50
Beef, Prime, Country		6 —	@ 6 37½
Beef, Mess, City		13 —	@13 50
Beef, Mess, extra		15 50	@16 50
Beef, Prime, City		7 25	@ 8 —
Beef, Mess, repacked, Wiscon		— —	@14 —
Beef, Prime, Mess	₱ tce.	21 —	@25 —
Pork, Mess, Western	₱ bbl.	15 75	@16 —
Pork, Prime, Western		13 50	@— —
Pork, Prime, Mess		14 88	@16 —
Pork, Clear, Western		— —	@17 50
Lard, Ohio, Prime, in barrels	₱ lb.	— 10½	@— —
Hams, Pickled		— 8¾	@— 9
Hams, Dry Salted		— —	@— 8½
Shoulders, Pickled		— 6¾	@— —
Shoulders, Dry Salted		— —	@— 6½
Beef Hams, in Pickle	₱ bbl.	13 —	@16 50
Beef, Smoked	₱ lb.	— 9	@— 9¾
Butter, Orange County		— 21	@— 23
Butter, Ohio		— 12	@— 15
Butter, New-York State Dairies		— 16	@— 20
Butter, Canada		— 12	@— 15
Butter, other Foreign, (in bond)		— —	@— —
Cheese, fair to prime		— 10	@— 12

Plaster Paris.

Blue Nova Scotia	₱ ton,	3 50	@ 3 75
White Nova Scotia		3 50	@ 3 62½

Salt.

Turks Island	₱ bush.	— —	@— 48
St. Martin's		— —	@— —
Liverpool, Ground	₱ sack,	1 10	@ 1 12½
Liverpool, Fine		1 45	@ 1 50
Liverpool, Fine, Ashton's		1 72½	@ 1 75

Saltpetre.

Refined	₱ —	6¾	@— 8
Crude, East India		— 7	@— 7¾
Nitrate Soda		— 5	@— 5½

Seeds.

Clover	₱ lb.	— 10	@— 11½
Timothy, Mowed	₱ tce.	14 —	@17 —
Timothy, Reaped		17 —	@20 —
Flax, American, Rough	₱ bush.	— —	@— —
Linseed, Calcutta		— —	@— —

Sugar.

St. Croix	₱ lb.	— —	@— —
New-Orleans		— 4	@— 6¾
Cuba Muscovado		— 4½	@— 6
Porto Rico		— 4½	@— 6¾
Havana, White		— 7¼	@— 8
Havana, Brown and Yellow		— 5	@— 7½
Manilla		— 5½	@— —
Brazil White		— 6⅞	@— 7
Brazil, Brown		— 5	@— —
Stuart's, Double-Refined, Loaf		— 9¾	@— —
do. do. do. Crushed (Cask)		— 9¼	@— —
do. do. do. Ground (Cask)		— 8¾	@— —
do. (A) Crushed		— 9	@— —
do. 2d quality, Crushed		none.	

Tallow.

American, Prime	₱ lb.	— 11¾	@— 12⅛

Tobacco.

Virginia	₱ lb.	— —	@— —
Kentucky		— 7	@— 10
Mason County		— 6¾	@— 11
Maryland		— —	@— —
St. Domingo		— 12	@— 18
Cuba		— 18½	@— 23¾
Yara		— 40	@— 45
Havana, Fillers and Wrappers		— 25	@ 1 —
Florida Wrappers		— 15	@— 60
Connecticut Seed Leaf		— 6	@— 20
Pennsylvania Seed Leaf		— 5¾	@— 15

Wool.

American, Saxony Fleece	₱ lb.	— 50	@— 55
American, Full-blood Merino		— 46	@— 48
American ½ and ¾ Merino		— 42	@— 45
American, Native and ¼ Merino		— 36	@— 38
Extra, Pulled		— 42	@— 48
Superfine, Pulled		— 39	@— 41
No. 1. Pulled		— 33	@— 37

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THE TRUE MUSQUIT GRASS, GROWN BY A CAREFUL Georgia Planter. This has proved the most sure and valuable grass for stock yet cultivated at the South, and is invaluable to the planter. For sale by
RICHARD PETERS, Atlanta, Ga.,
also by R. L. ALLEN,
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SUPERIOR FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES—CHEAP. Wm. R. PRINCE & Co., Flushing, Long Island, in consequence of the Railroad passing through their largest Nursery, will sell about 50,000 trees at very reduced prices—comprising Fruit Trees in a bearing state, and Ornamental Trees of the largest size, including the finest evergreens and all other articles. Catalogues may be had at 113 Chamber st., and will be mailed to all applicants. 27-29

SHANGHAI BUFF, GREY, AND WHITE: ALSO BRAMA-Pootras and Malay fowl; 100 pairs assorted for sale. Also Brahma Pootra White Shanghai Eggs, at $5 per dozen; Black and Buff Shanghai Eggs, $3 per doz. They also have for sale Trees and Plants, Ornamental Shrubs, Roses and Grape Vines. Catalogue furnished. Apply by mail (post paid) to
GEO. SNYDER & CO.,
27-35 Rhinebeck, Dutchess Co., N.Y.

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Elements of Scientific Agriculture, or the Connection between Science and the Art of Practical Farming. Prize Essay of the New-York State Agricultural Society. By John P. Norton, M. A.
CATECHISM OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY AND GEOLOGY.
By James F. W. Johnston. With an Introduction by John P. Norton. 26-29—31-33

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NOTICE.—THE UNDERSIGNED WISHES TO DIRECT particular attention to these magnificent grapes, which he has propagated with such success, that they are beyond comparison the largest grapes known. He has many one and a half inches in diameter. The grape is perfectly hardy, and will endure the winter, and ripen 2 or 3 weeks sooner than the Isabella or Catawba. The Charter Oak Grape is unsurpassed for preserving and for wine—and a delicious table fruit. Orders up to 1st May received by subscriber, at 5 Scammel street, New-York city. After that date at Frankfort, N.Y. [27*] JOHN P. WILSON.

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THIS INSTITUTION IS SITUATED AT MORRISTOWN, N.J., about an hour and a half's ride from the city of New-York, on the Morris and Essex railroad; the cars leaving New-York several times a day. It has been ably patronized for the last six years. There will be a vacancy for a few more pupils in April.

Faithful teachers are provided for English branches usually required; also Drawing and Painting. French, Latin, and Spanish under a native teacher.

Vocal and instrumental music by an accomplished player, whose time and attention has been for years devoted exclusively to this object.

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Persons wishing to send their daughters from home, would do well to visit this Institution before deciding. 27-tf

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☞ Garden & Greenhouses, Astoria, L. I. 26-38

EARLY EXCELSIOR POTATOES.—THIS IS A NEW AND very superior sort. They are as early as the June potatoes, grow above the average size, are mealy and paltable, and have kept better than any other variety planted in this vicinity. The rot has never been known among them.
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FOR THE GARDEN, NURSERY, GREEN-HOUSE AND Pleasure Grounds. Carriage paid to Boston. B. M. WATSON, Old Colony Nurseries, Plymouth, Mass., offers for sale a very complete collection of plants of every description, including all those of recent introduction. Catalogues gratis, and post-paid on receipt of a postage stamp. Usual discounts to trade.

Dwarf and Standard fruits of the very best sorts.

200,000 APPLE, PEAR, Cherry, Quince, (Angers,) Mahaleb and Paradise Stocks.

CURRANTS, GOOSEBERRIES, RASPBERRIES, Rhubarb, &c.; Asparagus, Needham's New White Blackberry, High-Bush cultivated Blackberry.

STRAWBERRIES, the finest collection in the country, in nearly a hundred varieties, including every novelty of foreign or native production.

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ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS AND HEDGE PLANTS, for the Avenue, Lawn, Cemetery and Street, in great variety, including many novelties. Weigelia Amabilis, (new yellow.) $1. Deutzia gracilis, (new,) $1. Spirea Callosa, (new,) $1 50. Pyrus umbilicata rosea, $1.

300,000 NORWAY SPRUCE, SILVER FIR, Austrian Pine, Scotch Fir, Arbor Vitæ of sorts, Scotch Larch, &c., with varieties of Deciduous Trees, suitable for nurseries or belts, &c., worth from $10 to $20 per 1000.

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Fine named collections of Iris, Phlox, Viola, Lobelia, Sedum, Potentilla, Campanula, Polyanthus, Hollyhock, Pansy, &c. Japan Lilies, Gladiolus, Tiger flowers, Tuberoses, &c. Oxalis Deppei, fine for edging and bedding, $10 per 1000.
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NURSERY STOCKS.—QUINCE, PLUM AND CHERRY stocks for sale, also cherry pits in their season, packed in damp moss, suitable for transportation to any part of the United States. Apple and quince seed &c., &c.
Orders from any distance promptly attended to. Address, post-paid WM. DAY,
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It is composed of crushed or ground bones, decomposed by the addition of about one fifth their weight of sulphuric acid, diluted with water, to which is added a due proportion of guano and sulphate of ammonia. The latter is the active and one of the most efficient agents in the best Peruvian Guano.

It is suited to any soil in which there is not already a full supply of the phosphates, which is seldom the case. All crops are benefited by its application.

For sale in large or small quantities, in bags of 150 lbs. each. No charge for packages. All bags will be branded "C. B. De Burg, No. 1 Superphosphate of Lime."

PERUVIAN GUANO of best quality.

AGRICULTURAL and HORTICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS of all kinds.

FIELD and GARDEN SEEDS, of various sorts, fresh home grown and imported.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST—weekly, $1 per volume—two volumes a year.

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FOR SALE AT THE SOUTH NORWALK NURSERY, THE Great New Rochelle or Lawton Blackberry Plants; also plants of the White fruited Blackberry. For sale also a large stock of small plants of the new or North River Red Antwerp plants, at the low price of fifteen dollars per thousand. The above plants all warranted.

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Price at Chicago $175—$75 Cash with order, note for $50, payable when reaper works successfully, and another for $50, payable 1st December next with interest. Or $160 cash in advance. Warranted to be a good Self-Raking Reaper.

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Descriptive circulars with cuts, and giving impartially the difficulties as well as successes of the reaper, mailed to post-paid applications. J. S. WRIGHT.

"Prairie Farmer" Warehouses, Chicago, Feb., 1854. 23-35

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Grain Drills, a machine which every large grain planter should possess. They are of the best patterns, embracing most valuable improvements.

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Grain mills, corn and cob crushers, a very large assortment of the best and latest improved kinds.

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